$4M

The city's investment in a north-south bike lane. metroNEWS

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WESTWOOD TO POPE FRANCIS: IT'S EMBARRASSING BEING CATHOLIC
metroVIEWS

WEEKEND, MAY 29-31, 2015

High 28°C/Low 11°C Mainly sunny

Royal tradition still flying

Four royal swans were released into the Ottawa River Thursday, continuing a tradition begun in 1967 when Queen Elizabeth gave Canada six pairs of white swans to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday. Story, metroNEWS. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Hospital to cut 87 staff

HEALTH

Full-time jobs to go in bid to reduce costs by $12M

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Dozens of nursing, administrative and health professional jobs are on the Ottawa Hospital's chopping block, it was announced on Thursday.

The hospital is cutting almost 87 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) and stopping outpatient therapeutic services in an attempt to further reduce hospital costs by $12 million.

"The hospital must focus on providing acute and highly specialized care (e.g. cancer, trauma and cardiac) that only it can deliver and can no longer deliver care that patients should receive in the community," reads a statement on the hospital's website.

The statement also says 25.83 FTE positions to be cut are already vacant.

Here's the breakdown of existing FTE positions that will be affected:

- 13.56 in unionized administrative and support services
- 32.57 in other health professionals (physiotherapy, clinical nutrition, social work)
- Three in nursing
- 13 in non-unionized administrative positions

Anne Clark, a vice-president with the Ontario Nurses Association, said there will actually be about 5.7 FTE nurses cut, not three — but under a mix of part-time and FTE. Any registered nurse removed from the bedside takes away 2,000 hours of hospital care a year, she said.

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Eligible customers will receive $500 towards the purchase finance of a new 2015 Focus (excluding S), Fiesta (excluding S), C-MAX, Fusion, Mustang (excluding 50th Anniversary, Shelby GT350), Taurus, Edge, Flex, Expedition, Transit Connect, Transit, E-Series Cutaway, Transit Van/Wagon/Cutaway/Chassis Cab, F-250 to F-550 models, and $750 towards the purchase finance of a new 2015 Escape and F-150 models (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Only one (1) bonus offer may be applied towards the purchase finance of one (1) Eligible Vehicle. Taxes payable before offer amount is deducted. Offer is raincheckable. *Until June 30, 2015, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Edge and 2015 Mustang (excluding 50th Anniversary, Shelby GT350), Flex and Escape models for up to 60 months, and 2015 Focus, Fiesta, Fusion, Taurus and F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab) models for up to 72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. 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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Morels from Canada's North — prized morsels for chefs around the world. **Business**

'Never drive angry,' says Canada's best Uber driver

TRANSPORTATION

Ottawa man wins ride-share's top service award

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

What's the trick to becoming the greatest Uber driver in all the land?

According to Canada's best Uber driver, who lives in Ottawa, the secret is simple: Never drive angry.

Glen is the only Canadian Uber driver to receive one of the company's prestigious Sixth Star awards for "drivers who go above and beyond." Only a few dozen drivers in Uber's 300 cities worldwide have received the award.

After giving 1,200 rides since joining Uber when the ride-sharing app launched in Ottawa in October, Glen has a near-perfect 4.98-star rating from customers.

When Uber called him to inform him about the award, he was "shocked."

"This is just fun for me. This is not a job," he said. "I don't do it for the money, I do it because I love driving and because I'm a sociable person."

Glen, 38, declined to give his last name because he has a "sensitive" government job and said he wants to keep a low profile. He said he thought the high rating was normal because he had nothing to compare it to, but said Uber officials recently told him they looked through his customer feedback and read 300 positive comments before stopping.

So how does he do it?

"I only Uber when I'm upbeat, positive, feeling good, when the car's clean, I want to go be sociable and get to know my own city a little bit more," he said. "The key is that if this ever feels like a job, I'm done. I'm out."

He's got a serious job Monday to Friday, and this is a complete departure from that.

> **"The key us that if this ever feels like a job, I'm done.**
> Uber driver Glen, of Ottawa

"Driving has always come very naturally to me. It's a passion," he said. He was raised in rural Saskatchewan, where "your driver's licence is your ticket to freedom.

"This allows me to enjoy it even more, be social, meet new people, tour my own city and have some fun," he said.

Of course, dealing with the odd unpleasant person is an inevitable part of driving people around. But Glen said if that gets to you, "shut the app off and go home. Do something else."

That's an advantage of driving for Uber: there are no set shifts. Glen works evenings and weekends and estimates he drives for 10 hours a week, at most.

Glen got more than bragging rights with his Sixth Star award: he also received a $1,000 American Express gift card, some Uber swag and a Sixth Star-embossed medal.

He figures he'll keep the medal in the car, but "won't be throwing it in people's faces.

"That would be un-Canadian."

Glen, an Uber driver in Ottawa, is the first Canadian driver to receive the company's prestigious "Sixth Star" award. COURTESY UBER

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Five tips on how to be #1

How has Ottawa Uber driver Glen achieved a near-perfect customer rating after nearly 1,200 rides? Here are five ways.

1 A clean car
Glen, a self-described "car nut," keeps his Chevrolet Volt in perfect condition. It's washed daily, waxed every two weeks, the interior glass is cleaned every two days, vacuumed once a week, the leather interior is cleaned and balmed, tires are dressed and rims are polished.

2 Smooth driving
He said the best rides are smooth and cautious, like you're driving in a limo. Glen said a fellow chauffer in California put it best: "Pretend your rider has a book on their head or a hot cup of coffee that can't be spilled."

3 Amenities
Glen keeps his car stocked with cold water, Perrier, mints, gum and cellphone chargers. The car has free Wi-Fi, too. He starts every ride with a detailed greeting and welcomes them to Uber.

4 Music
After his polished opening speech, Glen puts "chill house music" on. He said it helps create a powerful first impression.

5 Clean appearance
Glen stays clean-shaven and always wears a shirt with a collar, blue jeans, driving shoes and, in the winter, driving gloves.

MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

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Bike lane changes coming

CYCLING

The city has designed a route along O'Connor St.

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa cyclists could be a pedal push closer to a new, safer north-south alternative to the busier Bank Street.

The city has devised a $4-million cycling route from the Glebe to Parliament Hill along O'Connor Street.

It includes a mix of bi-directional, uni-directional and shared bike lanes for the roughly three-kilometre stretch from Fifth Avenue to Wellington Street.

Rather than tear up and completely rebuild the street, crews will work between the existing curbs, using paint and bollards to segregate the lanes.

While it may offer a safer route, Citizens for Safe Cycling has criticized the shared bike lane portion of the plan between Glebe Avenue and Strathcona.

The city had previously considered a full bike lane, but scrapped it last month.

"It's easy to look at only the southern part but, really end to end, this is the biggest and most important bike project over the last few years and certainly this year," he said.

"It's a very complicated problem and I think they've done a great job north of the Queensway."

The O'Connor Street bike lane plan will be brought before the transportation committee on Wednesday.

CONSTRUCTION PHASES

O'Connor bike lane construction timeline: 2014 to 2019

Phase 1: Laurier Avenue to Fifth Avenue. The work will be carried out in conjunction with the resurfacing of O'Connor Street between Somerset Street West and Isabella Street in 2016.

Phase 2: Wellington Street to Laurier Avenue, but this will likely not start until after the 150th anniversary celebrations in 2017.

1 WELLINGTON & PRETORIA

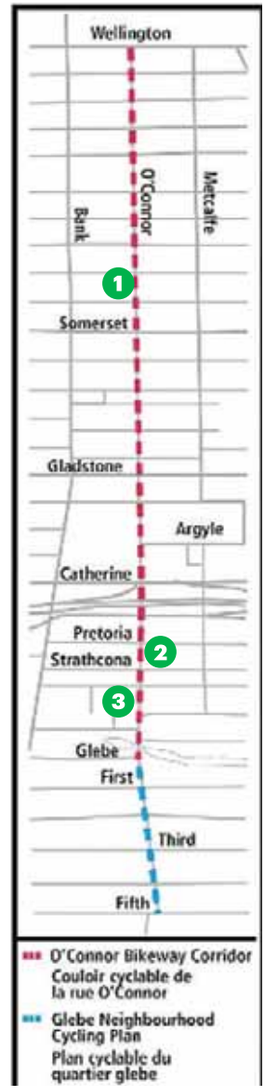
Between Wellington and Pretoria, there will be a bi-directional bike lane that will be segregated by paint, pre-cast concrete curbs and bollards (this section of O'Connor is one-way for drivers).

2 PRETORIA & STRATHCONA (NOT PICTURED)

Between Pretoria and Strathcona avenues there will be a uni-directional bike lane on the west side and a contraflow bike lane on the east side with similar buffer treatment to the above-mentioned (this section is also one-way for drivers).

3 STRATHCONA & GLEBE

Between Strathcona and Glebe avenues (where O'Connor turns into a two-way street), there will be shared-use lanes.



GHOST BIKES

City ponders roadside memorial permits

While white ghost bikes, curb flowers and other roadside memorials are small ways to grieve loved ones lost in accidents, they are becoming a sticking point for some Ottawa residents who say they are dangerous or need upkeep, according to a city report.

The debate has boiled to a point where the City of Ottawa is considering regulating the spontaneous shrines. Winnipeg has a bylaw that restricts the size, time and location of roadside monuments.

Currently, Ottawa has a hands-off approach to roadside memorials, but a city report states that lack of a policy is "creating conflict between communities and grieving families and friends."

"No city staff person or elected official wants to be the one who says, 'Go out and cut the wires and take that away,'" said Capital Ward Coun. David Chernushenko, who's the lead councillor on this city review. But, he said, there needs to be rules in place.

At the transportation committee next week, city staff will ask to review the practice. According to the report, staff will consider a permit for the monuments, whether the next of kin must agree to the memorial, the shrine's size and timeline restrictions and who should be responsible for cleanup.

Chernushenko also suggested allowing a temporary shrine, but then switching to a permanent commemorative plaque.

Ottawa resident Melanie Harris died in a cycling accident in 2009 after she collided with a bus on Sussex Drive near King Edward Avenue. One of her friends put up a ghost bike in her memory. Her husband, Eric Dionne, was touched by the gesture. He said he thinks families and friends should be allowed to freely place ghost bikes.

> **People should be able to commemorate in whatever way they feel like.**
> Eric Dionne

"People should be able to commemorate in whatever way they feel like," he said.

Another ghost bike at the Bronson Avenue bridge is starting to rust, while the one at Bank and Riverside streets commemorating Meg Dussault is well maintained and even seasonally redecorated. Alex deVries, vice-president of Citizens for Safe Cycling, said not all monuments are built the same.

"Memorials can make a very good point and raise attention … of the safety considerations when driving or biking," he said. "But it's obviously a difficult situation when it's taking up valuable space."

City staff are expected to finish the roadside memorial review by the fall. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Friends of Mario Théoret gather for the placement of a ghost bike near the spot at the intersection of Merivale and Hunt Club Roads where Théoret was struck and killed.
TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board wants to make it easier for community initiatives, like homework clubs and sports teams, to use school facilities. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Communities to get more school access

HOSTING

Board aims for more activities within facilities

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

What's easier for a parent: Picking the kids up from school and ferrying them to soccer practice halfway across town, or having the kids walk down the hallway to the gym?

The answer is obvious, and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board says it's working on a new policy to get more community activities taking place in its buildings.

"It fits in with our rationale — the community should be able to access school sites for multiple purposes," said associate director of education Norah Marsh.

She added that having activities in the school helps parents because they're closer to home and can be offered at a lower cost.

Programs are divided into four categories including educational, recreational, health and public partnerships (which includes schools as polling stations or community meeting sites).

"We want to make it a little easier," said Marsh. "If I'm interested in using a local building to offer a service, how do I go about doing that?"

A report implies that a growing concern about liability and cost has prevented schools from being "the centre of the community." Concerns about staffing costs, wear and tear, and cleaning are all challenges the board will be looking at.

Marsh said the policy will be finalized in November after feedback from organizations and parents.

After the policy is in place, the schools will do an inventory of the programs offered and make suggestions for improvements.

BILL

Province passes killer whale ban amid other animal protection measures

Ontario has passed a bill that prohibits the breeding and acquisition of killer whales, as well as other animal protection rules.

The bill, named the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, also includes rules that require animal welfare committees at any facility that has marine mammals.

The bill also includes a requirement for marine parks — there is only one in Ontario — to have qualified veterinarians with marine mammal expertise to oversee preventive and clinical care.

Ottawa MPP Yasir Naqvi, the minister of community safety and correctional services, says banning the breeding and acquisition of killer whales is something Ontarians expect and the animals deserve.

1

Only one marine park — Marineland in Niagara Falls — exists in Ontario. And that park features Niska, the lone killer whale in Canada.

Kiska, the lone killer whale in Canada that lives at Marineland, a tourist park in Niagara Falls, is excluded from the bill.

The province says it is also working on establishing standards of care for marine mammals as laid out in a report by a marine biologist at the University of British Columbia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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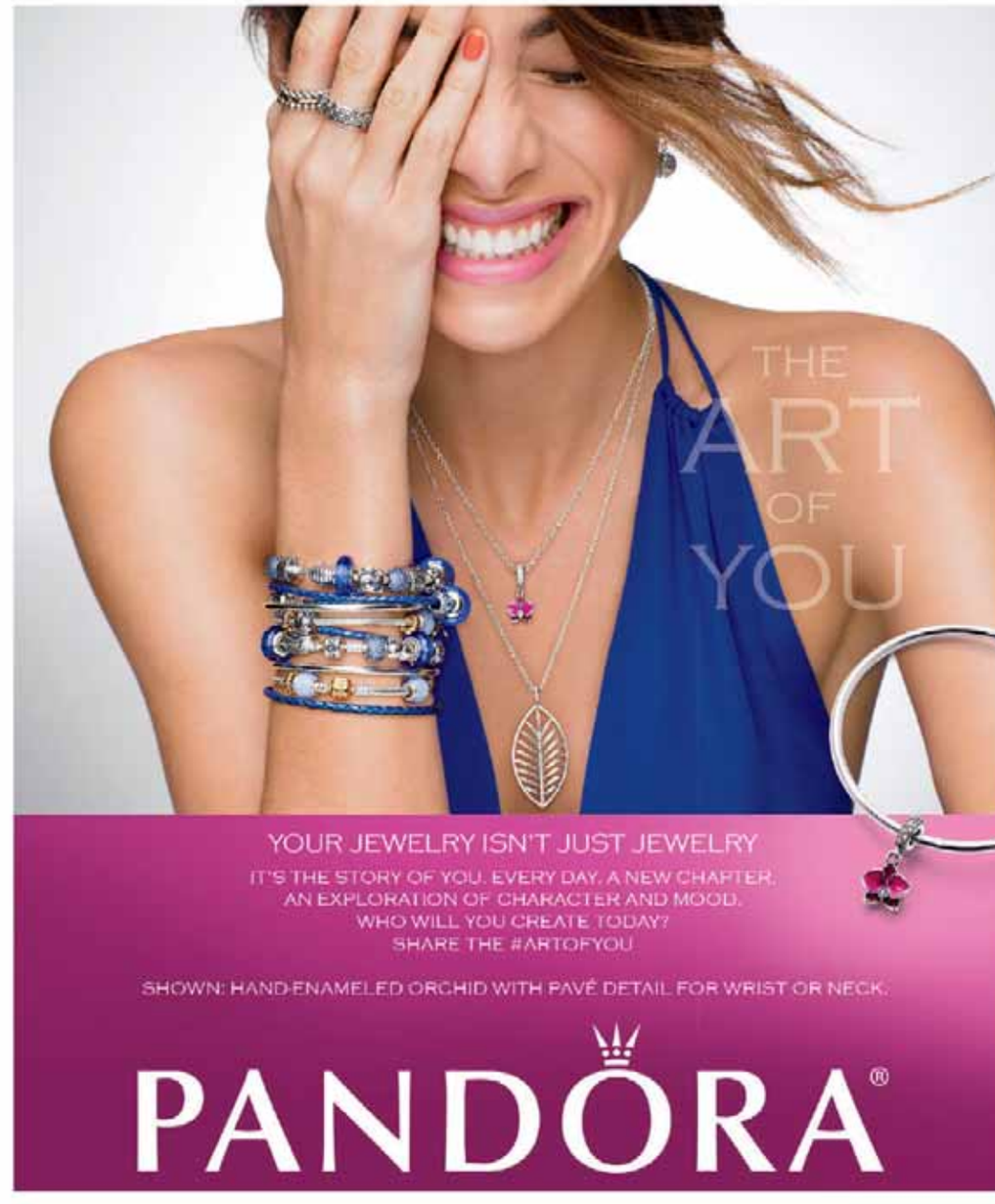
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Two of the city's royal swans were finally granted feathery freedom on Thursday morning in Brewer Park. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Swans go out swimmingly

TRADITION

Royal birds released into Rideau River

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Two pairs of swans were released at the shoreline of the Rideau River in Brewer Park Thursday morning to the delight of around 30 onlookers.

"Thanks for being here, it's all about the swans this morning," said Glouces-ter-Southgate Coun. Diane Deans.

"The swans you'll see are descendants from the original gift from the Queen. It's been a 47-year tradition that, as a rite of spring, we launch the royal swans into the beautiful, majes-tic Rideau River."

The four swans released for the crowd — two Australian black swans and two white mute swans — are four of the 13 birds currently kept by the city.

While there might have been some bird enthusiasts in the crowd, most onlookers were just longtime residents of the city curious about the history of the event.

"I see them all the time, but I didn't know they were from the Queen," said Nicole Haiduk, who lives near the park.

In 1967, six pairs of white swans were gifted to the city by Queen Elizabeth II to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday.

> **I was so happy to see them released.**
> Nicole Haiduk

Half of the original swans were traded with the Mont-real Zoo in exchange for six Australian black swans.

The last original swan died in 2004. The 13 currently kept are the descendants of the original black and white swans.

They remain on the river until late October or early November, when they're transferred to the "Swan House" for wintering.

An Ottawa police cruiser is seen in this file photo. METRO FILE

52 people charged in drug probe

CRIME

$31K in crack, pills, pot seized during 'Project Shadow': Police

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Fifty two people are facing drug charges after a four-month undercover police investigation on Rideau Street and in the By-Ward Market.

Ottawa police say "Project Shadow" began in February following tips from the public, complaints and police reports about drug activity.

The investigation by the Street Crime Unit — created in 2007 to specifically target street-level drug trafficking — led to 188 charges for crimes related to the trafficking of crack cocaine, prescription pills and marijuana.

Police say they seized $31,000 worth of drugs.

Charges have been laid against 45 men and seven women. Police say 34 people have been arrested so far and arrest warrants will be issued for 18 others.

Police have not identified any of the people who have been arrested or for whom arrest warrants will be issued.

"The Ottawa Police Service will continue to investigate drug-related offences in the Downtown core and ByWard area as part of one of many enforcement initiatives this spring and summer," said Staff Sgt. Sean Barrett.

Project Shadow is the latest police investigation to target the ByWard Market and Rideau Street.

Last November, police arrested 33 people in the same area following another four-month investigation known as "Project Sweeper."

IN BRIEF

Eight arrested, 107 charges laid in gun trafficking probe
Eight people face more than 100 charges after a joint-forces investigation into the trafficking of firearms and cocaine in eastern Ontario.

Police say "Project Harden" was conducted over five months by members of the OPP, the RCMP, Border Services, Quebec provincial police and officers from Ottawa, Cornwall and the Akwesasne Mohawk service. It focused on the illegal gun trade, particularly handguns.

Investigators say they carried out six search warrants on Wednesday in Cornwall, Ottawa, South Glengarry Township, Akwesasne and Longueuil, Que., and seized a cache of weapons that included six handguns, an AK-47 assault rifle, ammunition, cocaine and marijuana.

Several firearms seized in the investigation were traced back to the United States.

Pierre Nassif, Paul Nassif, Devin Lazore, Masaed Rashed, Hussein Yassin, Sean Carl, Francois Billard and Sonia Bernier each face multiple charges. None of the allegations have been proven in court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCCER

World Cup tickets on sale at TD Place

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The box office at TD Place officially opened for the FIFA Women's World Cup and ticket sales in Ottawa are already going strong so far, according to the soccer body.

"We're expecting a sellout for every single game and we're really en route to have that happen for every match," said FIFA's Josie Pingitore, ticketing and hospitality manager for the Ottawa venue.

FIFA brought in some high profile figures for the official opening Thursday, including Mona Elisabeth Brøther, the ambassador of Norway, Vijavat Isarabhakdi, the ambassador of Thailand, Alberto Foncerrada Berumen, the first secretary to the ambassador of Mexico, and John Pugh, Ottawa Fury head coach and member of the Ottawa Venue Advisory Committee.

As excitement builds up for the tournament, Ottawa soccer clubs are among the early ticket buyers, according to Pingitore. The quarter-final match is more than 95 per cent sold out and the group matches are not far behind.

Soccer fans can now buy their tickets in person at the outdoor box office on Exhibition Way in Lansdowne Park. Tickets are also being sold at ticketmaster.ca.

The first Ottawa games take place on June 7 with Norway taking on Thailand, and Germany facing off with La Côte d'Ivoire.

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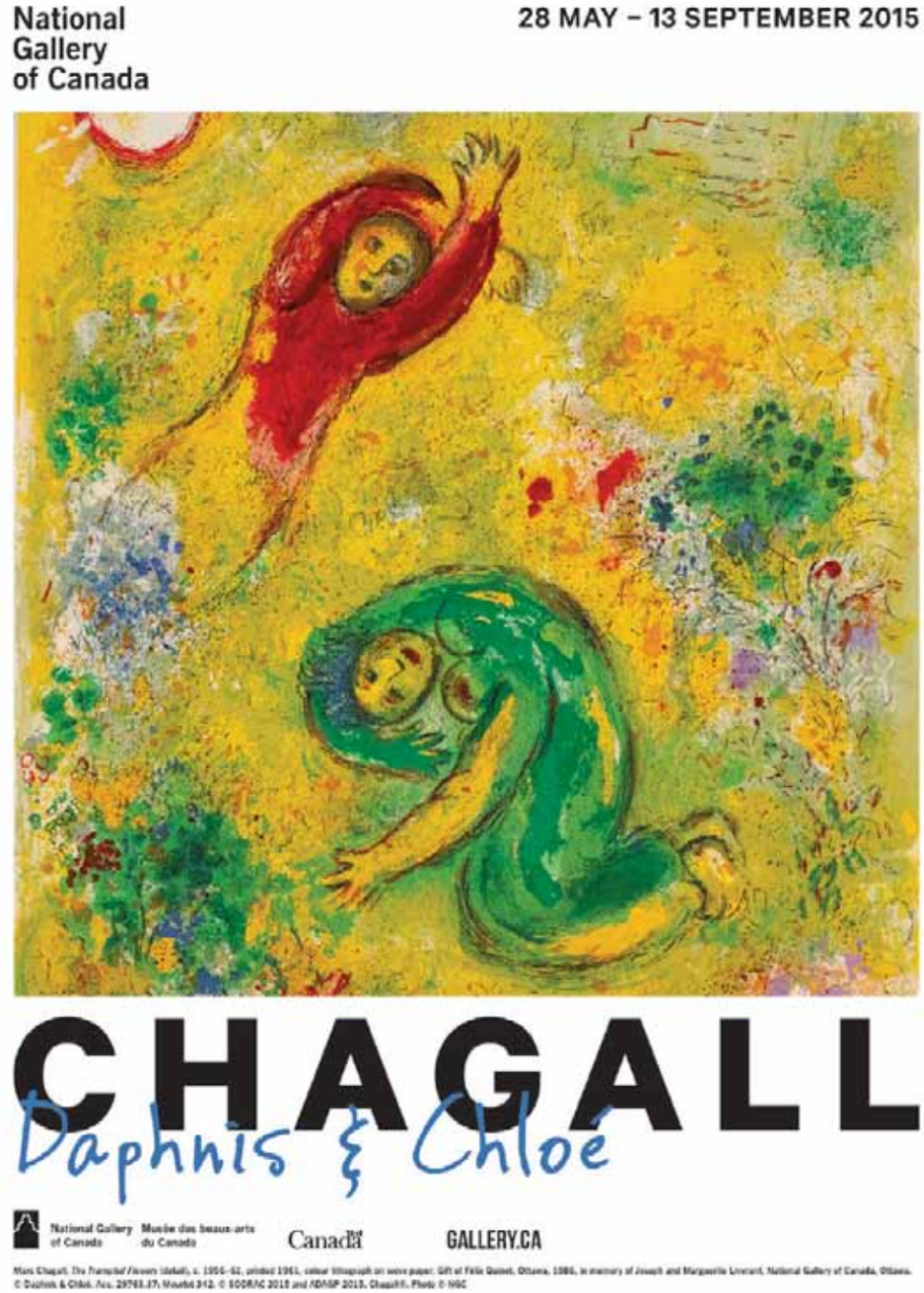

VOTING

Ranked ballots OK'd for municipalities

Ontario municipalities will have the option of using ranked ballots in the next municipal elections in 2018.

The preferential ballots let voters rank candidates instead of voting for a single person, which will give the winning candidate a much higher percentage of the vote and a broader mandate, Municipal Affairs Minister Ted McMeekin said Thursday.

"In the recent municipal election in a ward very close to where we stand today, a councillor was elected with only 17 per cent of the vote," McMeekin said in downtown Toronto.

"That should raise some flags, methinks."

Proponents of the voting system believe it can make campaigns more civil, forcing candidates to be more engaged in substantive debate, instead of just trying to get whatever percentage of the vote that will see them win.

The provincial government noted that ranked ballots could be used for votes for both the mayor and councillors or only the mayor, while the rest of council is elected using the current first-past-the-post system. Ranked ballots will not be used to elect school board trustees.

Ontario will convene a working group of municipal representatives and ranked ballot advocates to provide advice on how to best implement a new system, and as well is inviting public input until July 27.

The government is also reviewing the Municipal Elections Act to look at changing rules around campaign financing, third-party advertising, accessibility and enforcing municipal election rules. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Alexandra Cousteau, Meredith Brown, Dominique Monchamp and Meaghan Murphy test the water on the Ottawa river in September 2014. COURTESY OSCAR DURAND/BLUE LEGACY

Hacking for a waterway

ENVIRONMENT

Group aims to develop app to monitor Ottawa River

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

About 200 developers and designers are expected to attend what some are calling the first "aquahacking" event in Canada and it's happening at the Hilton Lac-Leamy this weekend.

The Saturday event combines digital ingenuity with environmentalism by putting app developers, also known as hackers, in one room to brainstorm applications with a specific purpose.

In this case, it's mobile solutions to address challenges facing the Ottawa River, which spans two provinces and several municipalities.

"The two provinces are not leading any kind of integrated management approach on the river and so that's what we are looking to do," said Meredith Brown, executive director of Ottawa Riverkeeper, the group organizing the two-day event.

"I'd love to find ways to visualize and really understand how much pollution is going into the Ottawa River and where," said Brown.

And there is some serious cash on the line for those who build the best apps in a crunch. The first-place winner gets $10,000, while the second and third place contestants will each win $2,500.

The de Gaspé Beaubien Foundation, which is partnering with the Ottawa Riverkeepers, is providing the funds.

Day 1, on Friday, will focus on gathering key players in the same room to come up with best practices on improving the health of the Ottawa River.

The City of Ottawa does have its own Ottawa River Action Plan, but Ottawa Riverkeeper is taking a multi-stakeholder approach by getting municipal and provincial leaders to sign a declaration and an action agenda.

More information on the event is available at ottawariverkeeper.ca.

CRIME

Man charged in Montreal Road ATM robbery

Ottawa police have charged a 21-year-old man following an investigation into the robbery of an ATM on Montreal Road.

Police say the suspect is already in custody on an "unrelated matter."

He has been charged with single counts of robbery and possession of a weapon.

He is expected to appear in court Friday.

Police say they won't name the man "until some additional investigative steps are completed."

Anyone with information with respect to this robbery, or any other robbery, is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Robbery Unit at 613-236-1222 ext. 5116.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or by downloading the Ottawa Police iOS app. METRO

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Teachers' strikes loom for fall

EDUCATION

Bargaining at standstill as strikers forced back to work

Ontario's public education system could be thrown into turmoil in September as the province's major teachers' unions have raised the possibility of strikes, setting the stage for a tense summer of bargaining.

More than 70,000 high school students returned to class Wednesday after the Ontario Labour Relations Board ruled that the teachers' strikes in the Toronto-area regions of Durham and Peel and the Sudbury-area Rainbow District were illegal — a decision that would only ban the strikes for two weeks.

In an attempt to avoid further strikes in those boards and ensure the students would be able to complete their school year, the Liberal government introduced back-to-work legislation, expected to be passed Thursday.

However, the new legislation does nothing to quell the potential unrest looming for the fall semester.

Education Minister Liz Sandals believes a deal can be reached with teachers' unions over the summer. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Education Minister Liz Sandals acknowledged that the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation is "upset," but the fact the union is not at the bargaining table at the moment, she said, doesn't necessarily mean a central deal can't be reached over the summer.

"Quite frankly, I'm fine with having a cooling-off period before we go back to the table with OSSTF," Sandals said.

> **"I'm fine with having a cooling-off period before we go back to the table.**
>
> Liz Sandals, Education Minister

"It's usually better to talk to people and negotiate when they're calm rather than when they're upset."

The province's talks with the OSSTF broke down last weekend and the union has applied for conciliation, which could set the stage for a provincial strike.

Union president Paul Elliott has said he is looking at the possibility of a strike in the fall.

Elementary teachers have been on an administrative strike since May 11 and their union promised an update Friday on their job action.

Negotiations with the province are at a standstill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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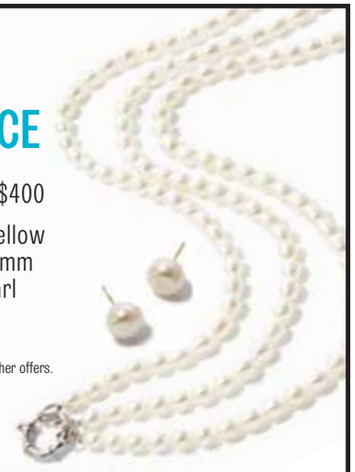

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Michael Zehaf Bibeau is shown carrying a gun while running toward Parliament Hill on Oct. 23, 2014. Speaker Andrew Scheer said his office is finalizing what portions of a highly detailed report will be released to the public. RCMP/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sources speak on Zehaf Bibeau clips

PARLIAMENT HILL SHOOTING

Footage said to show incitement for more attacks

As calmly as Michael Zehaf Bibeau laid out the reasons for his fateful attack on Parliament Hill last October, he exhorted others to carry out similar attacks, say sources familiar with the unreleased portion of his final video manifesto.

The missing video segments also include Zehaf Bibeau mentioning a number of Middle Eastern names, none of which appear to be linked to the Oct. 22 shooting rampage.

The details come from two sources who spoke to The Canadian Press about the video, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the contents of the portions that have yet to be made public.

They say during the missing 18 seconds, the 32-year-old Zehaf Bibeau calls on others to carry out attacks against countries such as Canada.

The sources say those named in the video do not appear to have played a role in Zehaf Bibeau's attack and it's not clear if investigators have been able to identify them.

Zehaf Bibeau recorded the video in his car moments before the deadly rampage, which claimed the life of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo and ended his own in a hail of gunfire inside the Parliament building's Centre Block.

RCMP commissioner Bob Paulson has said investigators had "sound operational" reasons for keeping the 18-second portion of the video secret when the other 55 seconds were released nearly three months ago.

The redacted portions included 13 seconds at the start of the video and five seconds at the end.

As to why the RCMP withheld part of the video, the RCMP wanted to ensure there were no hidden messages contained in it, the sources said. Investigators pored over every frame of the video, which was found on Zehaf Bibeau's cellphone inside the unlocked car he drove to Parliament Hill.

In the portion of the video Canadians have already seen, Zehaf Bibeau stares calmly into the camera. He talks in an even tone, his eyes darting around, as he sits in his car in a parking lot steps away from Ottawa police headquarters.

He says the actions he's taking are a response to Canada's military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We are retaliating, the mujahedeen of this world," Zehaf Bibeau says.

"Canada's officially become one of our enemies by fighting and bombing us and creating a lot of terror in our countries and killing us and killing our innocents."

Paulson said earlier this week the RCMP would release the remaining video this week or next, along with an Ontario Provincial Police report into the actions of the Mounties on Parliament Hill on the day of the shooting.

Next week, the House of Commons plans to release a review of how security personnel responded to Zehaf Bibeau once he got inside the Centre Block.

Speaking to a Commons committee, Speaker Andrew Scheer said his office is finalizing what portions would be released.

"A report that includes names of security personnel, names of constables, where people were standing at what time, and where resources were deployed, some of that information would — it would not be appropriate to release that," Scheer said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SPENDING

The Commons is spending an extra $6.5 million this fiscal year to pay for new security measures around Parliament Hill, according to Speaker Andrew Scheer.

LEGISLATION

Tampon tax nixed

Tampons will be a little cheaper as of Canada Day now that the Conservative government is moving to exempt feminine hygiene products from GST.

The House of Commons unanimously adopted an NDP-sponsored motion calling for the change earlier this month — a motion that passed after women in the Conservative caucus threatened to boycott the vote if their party didn't approve.

Opponents of the tax have long decried it as being entirely discriminatory, as it is only paid by women, and on an essential product, while other goods deemed as luxuries escape the levy altogether.

After the motion passed, the government said they would make the change in a future budget bill, but on Thursday a notice appeared from Finance Canada that the tax would indeed disappear on July 1.

Why the change is happening now wasn't clear. Finance Minister Joe Oliver was not available for comment. Conservative MP Michelle Rempel said the change was in line with the government's lower-tax policies.

The New Democrats suggested another reason — it's an election year. "Women have made it very clear that they are paying attention," said MP Irene Mathyssen, who brought the motion before the Commons and also had a private member's bill on the subject.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

New ban aims to support transgender individuals

A political roadblock that imperiled NDP MPP Cheri DiNovo's landmark legislation to ban transgender "conversion therapy" has been cleared.

"This means that right away the message gets sent to children across the province that what many of them are still undergoing isn't OK and that ... we are all on their side ... all political parties," the Parkdale—High Park MPP said.

DiNovo's Affirming Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Act will ban doctors from billing OHIP for counselling gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered patients to change sexual orientation or gender identity. "We'll get this done for Pride and that's fantastic," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Embrace diversity, top judge urges

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

McLachlin decries history of native assimilation

Chief justice of the Supreme Court, Beverley McLachlin
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's top judge decried the legacy of "assimilation" policies on aboriginal people in a speech on the public value of diversity, and called for "inclusive" leaders in "all our institutions, religious and secular" to promote tolerance.

Beverley McLachlin, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, delivered the wide-ranging keynote speech Thursday at the Global Centre for Pluralism, a non-profit centre founded by the Aga Khan and the Canadian government.

It comes on the eve of a historic report into Canada's relationship with aboriginal people.

It also comes as the limits of public tolerance are tested by national security threats made by Islamist fundamentalists, and political vows of "zero-tolerance" toward perceived threats. But McLachlin argued tolerance, within limits, "is the only way forward," saying the Canadian government's 19th-century assimilation policies toward aboriginal people would today be called "cultural genocide."

Democratic societies succeed when they tolerate and embrace religious and cultural differences, but McLachlin said there will always be limits to that. She suggested indirectly "21st-century jihadists" will not be shielded by guarantees of free speech or religion. The speech canvassed past examples of cultural and religious intolerance in Canada, and said "the most glaring blemish on the Canadian historic record" is "our treatment of the First Nations that lived here at the time of colonization."

"Yet the legacy of intolerance lives on in the lives of First Nation people and their children — a legacy of too much poverty, too little education, and over-representation of aboriginal people in our courts," she said.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Russia slams Canada for war criminal's final escape

The Russian Embassy in Ottawa ripped into the federal government Thursday after news emerged that a longtime Canadian resident who was No. 2 on the Simon Wiesenthal Center's list of most-wanted Nazi war criminals had died.

Vladimir Katriuk, 93, had been ill for a long time before his recent death, lawyer Orest Rudzik said in an interview.

"I think it was last Friday," Rudzik said from Oakville, Ont. "It was a stroke or something do with a stroke."

Katriuk, a native of Ukraine who had been an avid beekeeper for years in Ormstown, Que., was at the heart of allegations he participated in a village massacre in 1943 in what is now known as Belarus.

An official with the Russian Embassy said Katriuk's death makes it impossible, "unfortunately," for him to face justice.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

PARLIAMENT

MPs grapple with voting against belief

MPs will begin to grapple later Thursday with an issue that's sure to become a hallmark of the next Parliament: What does one do if a piece of legislation flies in the face of their fundamental beliefs?

A Conservative private member's motion that would allow members of Parliament to vote freely on matters of conscience is due to come up for debate in the House of Commons. Motions aren't binding on government, but the debate underscores that MPs are already laying the political groundwork to deal with the landmark Supreme Court decision earlier this year on physician-assisted suicide.

"There are issues of conscience, Supreme Court of Canada decisions, that deal with matters that are difficult and people have differences of views and differences of opinions on that," said Conservative MP Ed Komarnicki, who introduced the motion.

Justice Minister Peter MacKay has begun informal consultations on what the legislation ought to look like and has repeatedly said a more formal process would be announced soon.

In February, the top court struck down the criminal ban on assisted suicide, giving the federal government a year to draft new laws. The court decision provoked sharp reactions on Parliament Hill.

Many MPs showed up at the annual March for Life on Parliament Hill, whose anti-abortion theme was expanded this year to include protecting "all human life from the time of conception to natural death."

Not all Conservatives are on that side of the debate, however.

Conservative MP Stephen Fletcher responded to the Supreme Court ruling by introducing legislation in the Senate that would allow for physician-assisted death.

Those bills likely won't pass before Parliament rises for the summer and is subsequently dissolved for the fall election campaign. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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INDIA HEAT WAVE

Monsoons can't come soon enough

Eating onions, lying in the shade and splashing into rivers, Indians were doing whatever they could Thursday to stay cool during a brutal heat wave that has killed more than 1,400 in the past month.

But some had no choice but to venture into the heat.

"Either we have to work, putting our lives under threat, or we go without food," farmer Narasimha said in the badly hit Nalgonda district of southern Andhra Pradesh state.

Meteorological officials have said the heat would likely last several more days — scorching crops, killing wildlife and endangering anyone labouring outdoors. Officials warned people to stay out of the sun, cover their heads and drink plenty of water. Still, poverty forced many to work despite the risks.

Most of the 1,412 heat-related deaths so far have occurred in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring Telangana, where temperatures have soared up to 47 degrees Celsius, according to government figures.

"The rains which have eluded us for the last couple of years have created serious drought conditions," said state minister K.T. Rama Rao in Telangana.

"This is unprecedented ... so there is a little bit of panic," he said. "Hopefully the monsoon will be on time. Hopefully we will receive rain very, very soon."

Cooling monsoon rains are expected to arrive next week in the southern state of Kerala and gradually advance north in coming weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian devotees hold umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun during the annual festival of Sufi saint Saiwali Pir Baba at Sangral on Thursday. CHANNI ANAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

22 people 'may have been exposed' to anthrax

Human error probably was not a factor in the U.S. Army's mistaken shipment of live anthrax samples to numerous U.S. government and commercial laboratories in the United States and in South Korea, the Army's top general said Thursday. Gen. Ray Odierno told reporters the problem may have been a failure in the technical process of inactivating, anthrax samples. U.S. officials at Osan Air Base in South Korea said 22 people "may have been exposed" to the live anthrax. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA President Sepp Blatter, front right, speaks at the opening ceremony of the FIFA congress in Zurich, Switzerland, Thursday. The FIFA congress with the president's election is scheduled for Friday. WALTER BIERI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defiant FIFA chief resists calls to resign

ELECTION

Blatter pledges to restore trust in soccer body amid scandal

As defiant as ever, Sepp Blatter resisted calls to resign as FIFA president Thursday and deflected blame for the massive bribery and corruption scandal engulfing soccer's world governing body.

"We, or I, cannot monitor everyone all of the time," Blatter said in his first public remarks on the crisis that has further tainted his leadership on the eve of his bid for a fifth term as president.

The 79-year-old Blatter insisted he could restore trust in world soccer after a pair of corruption investigations brought "shame and humiliation" on his organization and the world's most popular sport.

"We cannot allow the reputation of football and FIFA to be dragged through the mud any longer," he said. "It has to stop here and now."

Despite a tide of criticism and pressure on him to leave, Blatter is moving ahead with a presidential election Friday that is likely to bring him another four years in office as one of the most powerful men in sports.

"The events of yesterday have cast a long shadow over football," he said, his voice shaky at times, in a speech to open FIFA's two-day congress. "There can be no place for corruption of any kind."

Blatter refused to back down after European soccer body UEFA demanded earlier Thursday that he quit following the latest — and most serious — allegations to discredit FIFA during his 17 years in office.

"Enough is enough," UEFA President Michel Platini said. "People no longer want him anymore and I don't want him anymore either."

Platini said he met privately with Blatter and asked him to go.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For more on the FIFA scandal, see pages 19 and 29

BACKGROUND

A U.S. Justice Department investigation accused 14 international soccer officials or sports marketing executives of bribery, racketeering, fraud and money-laundering over two decades. Seven officials remained in custody in Zurich on Thursday.

TERRORISM

No plans to attack the West, says Syria's al-Qaida branch

Al-Qaida's branch in Syria has no plans to attack the West but warns of retaliation if U.S.-led airstrikes continue to target its fighters, the leader of the group said in an interview with an Arab TV station.

The Syrian known as Abu Muhammed al-Golani, who heads the Nusra Front, said the aim of his group is to march to the Syrian capital Damascus and bring down President Bashar Assad's government. Al-Golani denied that the so-called Khorasan group even exists.

Since September, when the U.S.-led coalition launched an air campaign against the Islamic State group in Syria, U.S. airstrikes have struck targets associated with the so-called Khorasan group — which Washington says is a special cell within the Nusra Front that is plotting attacks against Western interests.

Al-Golani said in an interview with the Al-Jazeera TV network aired Wednesday night that "there is nothing called Khorasan group. We heard this from the Americans only."

He added that if the coalition's airstrikes continue, "then the alternatives are open and it is the right of any human being to defend himself."

Al-Golani said the directions his group has received from al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahri are "not to use Syria for attacks against the West and Europe."

"The directions that we have received from Dr. Ayman, may God protect him, are that the Nusra Front's aim is to bring down the regime and its allies, I mean Hezbollah," said al-Golani, whose face was not shown during the interview.

He added that the "directions we have received until now are not to target the West and America." He said al-Qaida might be doing so, but not the Nusra Front.

> **The directions we have received until now are not to target the West and America.**
> Abu Muhammed al-Golani, who heads the Nusra Front

The Nusra Front, one of Syria's strongest insurgent groups, is leading the so-called Fatah Army that consists of seven Syria-based factions. The Fatah Army has rolled back Assad's forces over the past two months, capturing wide areas of the northwestern province of Idlib, including the provincial capital that carries the same name.

On Thursday, the Fatah Army coalition — supported by Turkey and Saudi Arabia — captured the town of Ariha in northern Syria, one of the last remaining government holdouts in Idlib province.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKGROUND

In the span of a month, Syrian insurgents have routed government forces across the province, flushing them out of strongholds in a string of embarrassing defeats for Assad. The first to go was the city of Idlib at the end of March, followed by the strategic town of Jisr al-Shughur and the Qarmid military base in April.

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Young bear spends day wandering city

A yearling black bear stands up against the side of a house Wednesday afternoon in Casper, Wyo.
ALAN ROGERS/THE CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASPER, WYOMING

Exhausted yearling black bear captured for relocation

After leading wildlife officials on a daylong chase through a Wyoming city, an exhausted young black bear fell asleep under a tree.

"He was sleeping under an aspen tree just wiped out from his day's adventures," State Game and Fish spokeswoman Janet Milek told the Casper Star-Tribune newspaper.

"He was so sound asleep he didn't move when we used the tranquilizer," she said.

Game wardens captured the bear around 6:45 p.m. Wednesday after authorities tried several times to corner it in Casper. It was initially spotted at 6:30 a.m.

People watched from their back porches as the animal hopped fences, and police blocked off streets to allow wardens to track the animal.

At some homes, officers joined residents on their porches and peered through binoculars in search of the bear.

It's not uncommon for young bears to wander through the Wyoming towns of Glenrock of Casper, especially in subdivisions close to Casper Mountain.

Regional wildlife co-ordinator Justin Binfet says the bear probably came down from Casper Mountain. The bear will be released, wildlife officials said.

"The vast majority of the time, these are yearling bears that the mother forces out on their own," Binfet said.

"In these situations, it's a scared little yearling black bear, and it wound up in an unfamiliar place. It's more scared than anything."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this 2012 photo, a bronze sculpture of Lucille Ball is displayed in Lucille Ball Memorial Park in her hometown village of Celoron, N.Y. THE POST-JOURNAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

I LOVE LUCY

'Scary Lucy' statue will be replaced

A businessman has donated $20,000 to replace an infamous statue of comedian Lucille Ball that's located in her western New York state hometown.

The Post-Journal of Jamestown reports officials in the village of Celoron announced this week that Ernie Boch Jr. of Norwood, near Boston, had donated the funds to purchase a new statue.

Boch, president and CEO of Subaru of New England, said he made the donation because he loved Lucille Ball and is a big fan of her 1950s television show, I Love Lucy.

The life-size bronze in Lucille Ball Memorial Park drew international attention last month when a Facebook posting called for replacing what has been dubbed "Scary Lucy" because its face bears little resemblance to the star.

The village board has agreed to give that statue to the National Comedy Center in neighbouring Jamestown.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FW-17 METRO TORONTO, METRO OTTAWA

Kurds inspired in fight against ISIL

SYRIA

Group closing in on Tel Abyad, a hub for militants

In contrast to the Iraqi army's failures, Kurdish fighters in Syria are on the march against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), capturing towns and villages in an oil-rich swath of the country's northeast under the cover of U.S.-led airstrikes.

As the Kurds close in on Tel Abyad, a major commercial centre on the Turkish border, their advance highlights the decisive importance of combining airstrikes with the presence of a cohesive and motivated ally on the ground — so clearly absent in Iraq.

In Syria, a country now split mostly between al-Qaida-style militants and forces loyal to President Bashar Assad, the U.S. has found a reliable partner in the country's main Kurdish fighting force, known as the YPG. They are moderate, mostly secular fighters, driven by revolutionary fervour and deep conviction in their cause.

Since the beginning of May, they have wrestled back more than 200 Kurdish and Christian towns in northeastern Syria, as well as strategic mountains seized earlier by ISIL. Along the way, they have picked up ammunition, weapons and vehicles left behind by extremists.

The push has gotten them closer to Tel Abyad, a major avenue for commerce for the extremist group, through which it smuggles foreign fighters and sells black-market oil to help fund its conquests. The city is also a key link between Turkey and the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, ISIL's de-facto capital in its self-declared caliphate.

> **"The YPG doesn't lack a will to fight, like soldiers in the Syrian army ... who mostly fight**
> Wladimir van Wilgenburg

"The YPG doesn't lack a will to fight, like soldiers in the Syrian army, or soldiers in the Iraqi army who mostly fight for a salary," said Wladimir van Wilgenburg, a Middle East analyst at the Jamestown Foundation in Washington. "The YPG is much more motivated than other forces in the region, and doesn't lack cohesion and doesn't have co-ordination problems."

"The YPG is quite ideological, while the Syrian and Iraqi army aren't very well motivated," van Wilgenburg added.

The Iraqi military has struggled to make gains after its humiliating defeats last year, when it virtually crumbled in the face of the militant onslaught in northern Iraq. Poor training, corruption and sectarian politics have all been cited as reasons for the military's shortcomings. The U.S. spent billions of dollars training Iraqi forces from 2003 to 2011, but much of that training did not reach the foot soldiers battling ISIL today.

Last week, U.S. Defence Secretary Ash Carter criticized the Iraqi army following the fall of Ramadi, the strategic capital of the country's largest Sunni province of Anbar, saying the Iraqi military lacked the "will to fight." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kurdish female fighters of the YPG carry their weapons as they prepare for a battle against Islamic State militants near the village of Mabrouka, northeast Syria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DATES

January
The YPG liberated Kobani from ISIL militants and began a wide offensive in which they regained much of the territory they had lost.

May 6
The Kurdish fighters and their allies launched an offensive from the northeastern province of Hassekeh in less than three weeks, capturing the Aziz mountain along with 221 Kurdish and Christian villages that were held by ISIL.

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Record rains, floods hit Texas

SOUTH CENTRAL U.S.

At least 21 people dead, others missing as rivers swell

Many Texas cities remain in danger though a barrage of deadly thunderstorms has tapered, as officials warn about the possibility of more flooding from rain-swollen rivers.

The storms and floods in Texas and Oklahoma this week have left at least 21 people dead and at least 10 others missing.

In suburban Houston, the rains have pushed the San Jacinto River above flood stage, and its waters were expected to cover streets in subdivisions along the west fork of the river, possibly stranding people in their homes for days if they don't leave.

In Wharton, about 60 miles southwest of Houston, the mayor asked residents to voluntarily evacuate about 300 homes on the west side of the city due to the predicted rise of the Colorado River. In the Parker County town of Horseshoe Bend in North Texas, officials asked about 250 residents to leave their homes as the Brazos River was expected to rise above its flood stage of 21 feet (6.4 metres) on Thursday.

Meanwhile, in Central Texas, crews continued searching for nine people feared dead after the swollen Blanco River smashed through Wimberley, a small tourist town between San Antonio and Austin, over the Memorial Day weekend. In Houston, residents whose homes were flooded by torrential rains on Monday and Tuesday also continued their cleanup efforts.

While the Houston area got a respite from rainy weather for most of Wednesday, the heavy rains from earlier in the week were still making their way downstream. By late Wednesday, the San Jacinto was at 52 feet (15.8 metres), nearly three feet (a metre) above its flood stage, said Kim Jackson, a spokeswoman for the Harris County Flood Control District.

In Houston, between 800 and 1,400 homes have already been damaged by the flooding. Thousands of homes were also damaged or destroyed in the central Texas corridor that includes Wimberley — 744 of them in San Marcos alone.

This has been the wettest month on record for Texas, even with several days left. The state climatologist's office said Wednesday that Texas has gotten an average of 7.54 inches (19.15 centimetres) of rain in May, breaking the old record of 6.66 inches (16.92 centimetres), set in June 2004. While rain is in the forecast the next couple of days for many of the affected areas, the chances for showers are greater during the weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

15m

The height of the San Jacinto River above its flood stage.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mailboxes stand along a road covered in flood water from the San Jacinto River, Thursday at Cooper Park in Kingwood, Texas. Although the deadly thunderstorms that lashed much of Texas have tapered off, many cities were still in danger of flooding Thursday as heavy rain from earlier in the week poured downstream, swelling rivers. PAT SULLIVAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CALIFORNIA

Rebates spur saving of water

There's a torrent of Californians taking advantage of rebates for ripping out water-guzzling lawns during the drought, and that's providing a big boost to landscapers.

In Southern California in particular, things are poised to get even better for an industry that was battered by the recession and slow to recover. This week, the board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California voted to replenish its turf removal and other water conservation programs with $350 million to meet booming demand.

In communities across the state, homeowners are swapping out traditional lawns for drought-tolerant plants and shrubs, changing the look of many yards and the business outlook for landscaping and nurseries.

"Where rebates exist, interest is high," said Sandra Giarde, executive director of the 2,000-member California Landscape Contractors Association.

The Metropolitan Water District says it has seen monthly rebate applications increase 20-fold since April, when Gov. Jerry Brown imposed mandatory water cuts. The agency currently has requests involving the conversion of about 60,000 front yards.

In Northern California, the Santa Clara County Water District issued rebates for the conversion of 1.2 million square feet of lawn in the first four months of the year, more than all of 2014.

"It's just gangbusters," said Marty Grimes, a district spokesman. "We have people waiting in line." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mushroom pickers eyeing epic harvest

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Record forest fires sparks hope of high morel yield

Campgrounds are full and cars are lined up along a remote section of highway near Kakisa in the Northwest Territories, as residents and southern workers gather for what they hope will be a bumper harvest of a rare delicacy — the morel mushroom.

The territorial government has been promoting the harvest for months as a fleeting but lucrative opportunity in the bush, suggesting hundreds of dollars a day are there literally for the picking. Others warn it's a risky venture.

"There are no guarantees," said John Colford of the N.W.T.'s Department of Industry, Trade and Investment. "But if the mushrooms do arrive, there are opportunities."

Rich, earthy-tasting morels, which pop out of soil burned over by forest fires the previous season, are prized by chefs worldwide. The wrinkly, honeycombed fungi are widely picked across North America, but have only recently been harvested in the N.W.T.

After a record 3.4 million hectares of the territory's forest burned in 2014, hopes are high for an epic yield.

Handbooks passed out at information sessions suggest pickers have made anywhere from $200 to $1,000 a day. The territory said the total value of last year's 40-day harvest was between $6 million and $10 million.

This year could easily match that, said Colford. Prices in the field currently sit at around $16 a kilogram.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Northwest Territories government is promoting the morel mushroom harvest as a fleeting but lucrative opportunity.

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUTO INDUSTRY

Faulty airbags lead to a massive recall

Transport Canada has released a detailed list of vehicles being recalled in Canada due to faulty airbags made by Japan's Takata Corp., saying 1.2 million vehicles in this country are part of the worldwide recall.

The list of vehicles was posted online and includes the Honda Civic, Accord, and CR-V, Chrysler products, including the Dodge Ram and the Chrysler 300, BMW sedans and the X5, and Ford's Ranger and Mustang. The majority of the affected models are from the 2001 to 2011 model years, although more recent Ford Mustang models are also affected.

The full list of the 1,242,111 vehicles included in the expanded recall can be found on Ottawa's HealthyCanadians.ca website, while a list of affected models in older recalls for the same issue can be found on Transport Canada's website.

The recall began in 2008 over concerns that airbag inflators can explode with too much force, spewing metal shrapnel into drivers or passengers when deployed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Bank rethinks support

Scotiabank, which in December became the title sponsor of CONCACAF's Champions League and official sponsor of the Gold Cup, says it will review its involvement in sponsoring the soccer organization in the wake of corruption allegations against senior FIFA officials. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Happy face/Sad face

From **digital demons** to **Inuit archives** ,
Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

True North strong and free?

According to American middle schoolers, the Canadian national anthem needs some revision. On a standardized civics test of 29,000 Grade 8 students, one-third answered that Canada, Australia and France "are controlled by the military," "discourage citizen participation" or "have leaders with absolute power." The correct multiple-choice response was that all three countries have power-limiting constitutions. CBC.CA

Reward offered for Syria's loneliest bird

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has been blamed for yet another atrocity: the possible extinction of a rare bird in Palmyra, Syria. It's home to the only wild northern bald ibis outside of Morocco, a female named Zenobia who hasn't been seen since 2013. When Palmyra fell to ISIL, guards protecting three captive ibises — part of a conservation effort— fled. A Lebanese charity has offered $1,000 for info about Zenobia's whereabouts. BBC.COM

Charlie, Charlie,gravity is spoooky

A freaky fad stole social media's soul this week. The Charlie Charlie Challenge originated as a Mexican playground game. To play, you cross two pencils on a piece of paper marked with "yes" and "no," say "Charlie, Charlie," and ask a question. If "Charlie" is there, the pencils will move and indicate an answer. The game purportedly summons a traditional Mexican "demon" named Charlie — though no such legend exists. THE NATIONAL POST

Nameless in the North no more

Black-and-white photos with grim faces and no names take on new meaning when they're part of someone's story. A tool has launched to help Inuit families search Library and Archives Canada's online trove of pictures from Canada's North, some a century old or more. The crowd-sourced Project Naming, which is also launching on Facebook, asks people to identify loved ones and ancestors to help keep indigenous history alive. CBC NORTH

Butter and eggs bust out after years in the cooler

THE KOHLER REPORT
Rebecca Kohler

I read an article this week about a recent study that says pedalling backward in a cycle-fit class is "better exercise" than pedalling forward. The news depressed me. That might not sound as depressing as some of the other stuff that's going on in the world — like global warming or war or the fact that Josh Duggar from 19 Kids has "made some very bad mistakes" — but to me it was an exhausting tidbit of information.

I find most things that follow the phrase "according to a recent study" irritating, because they often undermine something I thought I was doing right. Like, I take cycle-fit sometimes and, when I do, I pedal forward. While I used to pat myself on the back for trying to stay active, now I'll be thinking, "Forward pedalling? Pfft. What a loser."

Sure, if I saw the headline "Study finds poutine to be high in calories," I wouldn't be mad. I never eat poutine and think, "Good for you, Rebecca!" (If I'm eating poutine, I'm probably too drunk to think — am I right, folks?!)

But so many studies tell me that a good thing I'm doing could be better. It's as if every headline I read is something a passive-aggressive character would say in the movie Mean Girls: "Oh, you eat red apples? Cool. Green ones actually have fewer calories."

I'm aware that studies are important and have led to such societal improvements as cures for diseases. We *need* studies, I totes get it. But also, like, shut up, you know?

Because here's the other thing about many study findings: Later studies prove them wrong. Take the other new study I read this week, which found eggs and butter aren't that bad for us after all. This after years of "Butter will kill you. Egg yolks are bad. I'm going to irritate this waitress and order an egg-white omelette." Reading the new study, I pictured egg and butter as a couple of wrongly convicted criminals, walking free from prison after being exonerated. Toast was there (he's on probation) leaning up against a car, waiting to drive them straight into my stomach.

I don't know whether it's that they're doing more studies today or that the Internet just likes to smear the studies all over my eyeballs, but I wish there was an app that could block them.

I'm aware that studies are important and have led to things like cures for diseases — like, we need studies, I totes get it. But also, like, shut up, you know?

Because, let's face it, in a few years, studies will probably find that pedalling backward turns you into a witch.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Being Catholic is like being American: an easy butt of jokes

I don't lack reasons to be embarrassed: shiny forehead, very loud voice, a sometimes uptight nature.

Some days, I even have the bonus of being Catholic. It's a bit like being an American — you're an easy butt of jokes.

The Vatican can't go long without sparking controversy, and the pope (any pope) can't go long without inflaming the global public.

Such was the case this week. After Ireland legalized same-sex marriage in a historic referendum, a senior Vatican official said: "I think that you cannot just talk of a defeat for Christian principles but of a defeat for humanity."

How ridiculous, and (perhaps inevitably) aggrandizing. A defeat for humanity is worsening climate change. A defeat for humanity is nuclear war. Even if you don't support same-sex marriage (I do), allowing it doesn't come with such dire consequences.

That's far from my first, or likely last, embarrassment.

Last month, Pope Francis defended women's rights, while completely ignoring the deeply ingrained patriarchy of the church. He's also warned Catholics they don't need to "breed like rabbits." Thanks for the tip.

And that's not to mention the church's horrific sexual abuse scandal or the corruption and infighting revealed in the document dump known as Vatileaks.

The Vatican can seem like it's aging out of relevance, obsessed with old rules over modern reality. It seems like an echo from another century.

That's why Pope Francis' election felt liberating. He's humble, focused more on poverty than abortion.

He is a bit like President Barack Obama. Both leaders came in on the winds of change and replaced staunch right-wing leaders.

Since both took office, their supporters have suffered disappointments. Yes, Pope Francis's gay-friendly, pro-environment stance gives me hope. Yes, Obama passed universal health care. But change hasn't been dramatic or instant under either leader. Both also have many opponents within their own ranks. Obama doesn't speak for all Americans. The Vatican doesn't speak for all Catholics.

Take Diarmuid Martin. The Archbishop of Dublin saw Ireland's referendum as a criticism of Catholicism, not of humanity.

"We have to stop and have a reality check, not move into denial of the realities," he told media.

They're not a ringing endorsement of equality — Martin does not want the church's definition of marriage changed — but his words are, at least, not embarrassing.

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Say Aloha to your rep, Crowe

RETROSPECTIVE

People forget, but this isn't director's only criticized film

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

For years Cameron Crowe could do no wrong. As the screenwriter of Fast Times at Ridgemont High (based on his book of the same name) and director of Say Anything and Singles, he became what The New York Times called, "a cinematic spokesman for the post-baby boom generation."

His biggest hit, Jerry Maguire was a romantic comedy that gave Renée Zellweger a career, Cuba Gooding Jr. an Oscar and us the catchphrase, "Show me the money!"

Then came his acknowledged masterpiece Almost Famous, the semi-autobiographical story of a young music journalist on the road with a band at an age when most kids still had a curfew.

He was a critical darling with box-office clout but then came a string of films that failed to connect with audiences.

This weekend he's back with Aloha, an "action romance" starring Bradley Cooper as a military contractor stationed with the U.S. Space program in Honolulu who reconnects with a past love (Rachel McAdams) while developing feelings for a stern Air Force watchdog (Emma Stone).

Pre-release, the film may be best known as the subject of a brutal Amy Pascal email.

In the Sony hack, leaked correspondence from the former SPE co-chairman suggested she was not happy with the movie.

"I don't care how much I love the director and the actors," she said, "it never, not even once, ever works."

Variety recently reported that the film has been recut since Pascal's scathing review and quotes a current Sony executive as saying, "Is it Say Anything or Jerry Maguire? Probably not, but is it a really entertaining movie for an audience? Yes, it is."

Moviegoers will decide the fate of Aloha, but its release begs for a reassessment of Crowe's recent, less successful films.

A remake of the Spanish film Open Your Eyes, 2001's Vanilla Sky starred three of Hollywood's hottest stars of the moment, Tom Cruise, Cameron Diaz and Penelope Cruz in a dark thriller about a self-obsessed playboy whose life is turned upside down after reconstructive surgery on his face.

The surreal blend of romance and sci-fi threw critics off, but a another viewing a decade after its release reveals a daring movie that examines regret, desire and mortality.

An enjoyable darkly comic romance, Elizabethtown got trounced by critics (it currently sits at 28 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes) but is a great showcase for star Kirsten Dunst.

She is frequently good in films, but here she really steals this movie as the cute and kooky stewardess who has several unforgettable moments — when she tells Bloom (Orlando Bloom) to stop trying to break up with her and her giggly reaction when Bloom asks her a personal question on the telephone.

Without her performance the trip to Elizabethtown wouldn't be nearly as much fun.

Finally, We Bought a Zoo, the story of a widower who swallows his grief by buying a zoo and finding love, shouldn't work. It's too sentimental and manipulative by half, but luckily Matt Damon is there to ground the flighty story.

A postscript (and no, I'm not going to tell you what it is) that even Steven Spielberg would find schmaltzy, works because star Damon hits all the right notes and Crowe's dialogue sings. A father-and-son argument is a showstopper and you'll likely never use the word "whatever" again without thinking of this movie.

Aloha isn't the only not-amazing movie Cameron Crowe ever made, Richard Crouse reminds us. HANDOUT

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

San Andreas ★
Aloha ★★
I'll See You in My Dreams ★★★★
Survivor ★

HOW RATING WORKS	
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THE WORD FROM THE BIRD

DOCUMENTARY

Caroll Spinney talks about being Big Bird for almost half a century

Richard Crouse
Metro | Life

Big Bird is, arguably, one of the best-known characters on the planet but how much do we really know about him? We know he's yellow, eight feet two inches tall, and lives in a large nest behind 123 Sesame Street — but the rest is murky.

A new documentary, I Am Big Bird, exposes Caroll Spinney, the man who has spent 45 years beneath the Muppet's felt and feathers and knows the bird better than anyone. Spinney is Big Bird and Big Bird is Spinney.

1 Muppet mastermind Jim Henson created Big Bird, but Spinney says, "I was given a lot of freedom to create the kind of guy he is. He's a person like I was as a kid, except he doesn't get pushed around as much.

"I was the smallest boy in my class so there is a lot of satisfaction playing the largest character who's ever been on television.

"To be loved like a little child but be eight-feet-two, what a strange accomplishment."

2 Caroll's relationship with Big Bird lasted longer than his first marriage, which blew up because his then-wife was "embarrassed" by his career choice, but Spinney calls his job "a dream come true.

"From the moment I first became aware of television I knew I wanted to be on TV regularly for children. So many of the things that have happened for me have been things I dreamed of doing."

As for retiring?

"I can't imagine it," he says. "It keeps me young."

3 Underneath Big Bird's feathers is a device called "an electric bra" strapped to Spinney's chest so he can see what's happening outside the feathers.

"We call it that just as a joke," says Spinney.

"It's really a TV monitor, a tiny little television set. We have a new one now, an LED monitor and it is too big. It takes up room and it is robbing me of space for the scripts inside."

4 Caroll is President Obama's ninth cousin, but Big Bird isn't political in the least.

"Big Bird, I'm told by the owners of him, does not have political opinions. I thought of an idea that would get around that problem if someone (ever asked about it). 'I don't know who that is,' he says in Big's voice. 'I thought we had a king.' In most fairy tales, lands are run by kings or queens."

5 NASA invited Big Bird to be a passenger on the doomed Space Shuttle Challenger to get kids interested in the space program.

"I said, 'Yes, I'd love to go.' About a month later they found out there was no place on the craft to put Big Bird. I realized it would be dangerous, but who could picture what actually happened?"

Caroll Spinney, left, and Muppet costume designer Kermit Love take a break on the set of the Muppet Movie in 1978. CONTRIBUTED

Big Bird has worked with plenty of talent over the years, including Janelle Monae. CONTRIBUTED

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Carla Gugino in San Andreas. COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

INTERVIEW

Carla Gugino talks about facing disaster

Carla Gugino was living in New York in September 2001. Every day she would look at the Twin Towers from her window, and then, one morning they were gone. The rush of emotions she felt on 9/11 stayed with her as she filmed her new movie, the earthquake disaster flick San Andreas.

"I thought about it a lot in the way Dwayne Johnson's character and my character reconnect in this movie," she says.

In the film she plays Johnson's estranged wife who teams with him to rescue their daughter from a devastating earthquake that rips California in half.

"What I found so smart and well done is that they connect not in a cliché way or in a sentimental way; they reconnect because they may not be alive the next day. In those moments, which was very much the case with 9/11 and what happened that morning, you realize you want to go help people."

Warner Bros. chose not to change the release date of San Andreas in light of the recent deadly earthquakes in Nepal. Instead they've used the film's trailers and ads to raise awareness about relief efforts and have vowed to match donations made by their employees.

"There were always going to be public service announcements after the trailer and the film," Gugino adds. "But then they were specifically geared toward Nepal.

"This is a movie that does not take Mother Nature or her tics lightly and I think it's about the triumph of the human spirit, which is what always amazes me. "

The actress lives in New York but spent 20 years living in Los Angeles on top of the shaky San Andreas fault line.

"I've been in a couple of big ones in L.A. and they are intense," she says. "The first one I ran outside which is exactly what you are not supposed to do. That is a good thing about San Andreas, you actually learn some stuff too — the whole under a doorway, or under a desk ting. Or under Dwayne Johnson. That is one of the advantages of his size." RICHARD CROUSE/METRO

"This is a movie that does not take Mother Nature or her tics lightly.
Carla Gugino

The Rock takes on Mother Nature

SAN ANDREAS

Dwayne Johnson plays the hero in new action flick

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson recently received a letter from a big-name fan, and it's been making him think back a lot to his childhood.

"When I was 8 years old, I saw Raiders of the Lost Ark in Charlotte, North Carolina. I walked out of there so inspired. I loved the movie and I knew I wanted to be that guy — charming, cool, kicks ass, cool with the ladies — but I had no connection to Hollywood. So to be sitting here today, I'm grateful and very happy," Johnson says.

"And I received a letter from that gentleman who directed Raiders of the Lost Ark. Very cool. He reached out and he said a lot of cool, motivating things."

Johnson is in the midst of promoting San Andreas, a Hollywood action flick in which he plays a Los Angeles Fire Department rescue pilot facing off against the biggest earthquake in California history. It's not exactly Indiana Jones, but he clearly overcame that whole no-connection-to-Hollywood thing.

For Johnson, even when making a big, loud summer action spectacle, it's important that the science is right. And even though U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones heavily criticized the film after being invited by the studio to see it — "Bottom line: Don't learn seismology from 'San Andreas,'" she tweeted — Johnson insists that as far as he knows everything on screen passes muster.

It's The Rock to the rescue in San Andreas, out this weekend. JASIN BOLAND

"We had the best seismologists, top scientists and earthquake scientists from CalTech and USC pore over the script, challenge the script and then ultimately walk away from it saying, 'This could happen. We hope it doesn't, but it could happen,'" he insists.

And, of course, serious earthquakes did recently occur on the other side of the world in Nepal. And that kind of front-and-centre current event can make turning natural disaster into big-screen entertainment a dicey prospect.

"We made the movie knowing and understanding the content of it. These things happen," Johnson says.

"It was so unfortunate, incredibly unfortunate. Our prayers and thoughts continue to go out to everybody in Nepal and everybody who was affected by that. But, you know, the truth is you go into a project like this with everything you've got — your heart and your soul — and you just want to make a good movie."

"You go into a project like this with everything you've got — your heart and your soul — and you just want to make a good movie.
Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson

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The Sunset Tower in West Hollywood was once home to many a starlet. PHOTOS BY JESSICA ALLEN; STARLET PHOTOGRAPHS: FILE PHOTOS

A taste of Hollywood

TRAVEL AND FOOD

Checking out the sights and bites in colourful L.A.

THE TV DINNER

Jessica Allen

Besides being film luminaries, what do Marilyn Monroe, Greta Garbo and Elizabeth Taylor have in common? They all once lived at the Sunset Tower in West Hollywood. So, too, did John Wayne. He even kept a cow on his terrace so he could provide guests with fresh milk.

I was craving a taste of old Hollywood — both literally and figuratively — when I recently visited Los Angeles. So I called the art deco tower, now a hotel, home for two luxurious nights. If only those walls could talk.

The walls of the Frolic Room, one decorated by the New York caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, seem to whisper of the bar's glory days from the 1930s. It eventually morphed into "Hollywood's best dive bar," according to LA Weekly, and "one of the only places (screenwriter Charles) Bukowski obsessives agree that he actually haunted."

Long-time bartender Gita Bull, who probably served Bukowski himself, served me my $6 drink.

Just down the street on Hollywood Boulevard, in front of John Barrymore's star, is Hollywood's oldest restaurant Musso & Frank Grill, where the servers wear red jackets with black lapels and bow ties. I sat at the bar in order to watch chef Indolfo, who has been manning the charcoal grill for 31 years. What I couldn't see was a kitchen chit. When Indolfo swung by to ask how my steak was (perfect), I asked him how he kept all the orders straight. "It's all up here," he said, pointing to his head.

Who says you can't have a Reuben for breakfast? Nobody at Canter's Deli on North Fairfax. The art deco room looks cinematic; no wonder it's featured in movies and TV. Regulars know staff members by name. I overheard my server telling a patron about some of the notables who'd visited — Diana Ross, President Obama. Nicholas Cage apparently met his first wife here.

Right before I checked out of the Sunset Tower, I took one last peek into the Tower Bar, where Hollywood's most illustrious movers and shakers come to unwind, thanks in large part to the no photo policy. Hotel ambassador Tim Cunningham had earlier walked me through the space, which was Bugsy Siegel's old apartment, and pointed out the photographs of long-gone vaudevillians that line the walls. Most had never really made it. But in a way, Cunningham said, considering who sits in this room night after night, they finally had.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

ART HOUSE/INTERNATIONAL

White God

Director: Kornél Mundruczó
Starring: Zsófia Psotta, Sándor Zsótér

When young Lili is forced to give up her beloved dog Hagen, because it's mixed-breed heritage is deemed 'unfit' by The State, she and the dog begin a dangerous journey back towards each other. At the same time, all the unwanted, unloved and so-called 'unfit' dogs rise up under a new leader.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 92% Audience: 72%

DOCUMENTARY

Banksy Does New York

Director: Chris Moukarbel
Starring: n/a

A chronicle of British street artist Banksy's "Better Out Than In" project, a surreptitious residency in New York City boroughs that drew a devoted following eager to find a new piece for each day in October 2013.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 100% Audience: 85%

ACTION/COMEDY

Aloha

Director: Cameron Crowe
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Emma Stone

Bradley Cooper stars as a defense worker who teams up with a pilot (Emma Stone) to stop a satellite launch in this romantic comedy from Cameron Crowe. Rachel McAdams co-stars.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: No reviews yet Audience: +96%

ACTION & ADVENTURE

San Andreas

Director: Brad Peyton
Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island's Brad Peyton steps into disaster movie territory with this 3D film surrounding an earthquake that hits the West Coast. Carlton Cuse provides the script.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 47% Audience: +96%

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TV's lame riffs on old films

NETWORK TREND

Movie-based shows that make TV extra unoriginal this fall

Brian Gasparek
For Metro Life

When did TV get so unoriginal? Aside from a handful of cable gems, the majority of popular shows these days revolve around repetitive competitions, countless superhero shows, formulaic reality TV and a heck of a lot of pawning. And sadly, after glancing at the lineup of shows that are set to debut later this year, it looks like TV about to get even less original thanks to a new trend.

Following in the footsteps of The Odd Couple from earlier this year, four of the biggest TV shows premiering this fall are all lifting their premise directly from old movies. This trend of reusing films to create new show ideas seems to be the latest form of creative apathy that's plaguing the big three networks. And whether we like the trend or not, it's happening. Sigh.

Here's a look at the four big movie-based shows premiering this fall and why we really don't need them.

Rush Hour
CBS is cranking out a Rush Hour show based on the dreadfully unfunny buddy cop films starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. Although none of the three Rush Hour films were well received by critics, they still somehow made a ton of cash.

Rush Hour's premise will just mimic the films, but the less expensive Jon Foo and Justin Hires will replace Chan and Tucker. Rush Hour's film director and movie-disaster mastermind Brett Ratner will be producing the show, which should ensure a similar quality to the films. Lucky us. We get more bad jokes with less star power. Perfect.

Minority Report
Fox is hoping it can flip 2002's Steven Spielberg/Tom Cruise big money blockbuster Minority Report in a primetime TV hit.

The show will be based in the film's world, revolving around a detective and a "pre-cog" that solve weekly crimes together. Wait, doesn't that just sound like Bones in the future? Snooze.

With a TV-sized budget, Fox's bad sci-fi track record and the show's played-out sounding premise, there's no possible way this show an live up to the movie's hype with fans. So why bother?

Limitless
CBS is actually recycling two films. In addition to Rush Hour, the network will turn Bradley Cooper's 2011 sci-fi movie Limitless into a show. In all fairness, this one may have some potential.

Produced by Cooper, the show stars Jake McDorman as a new NZT drug addict who uses his enhanced brainpower to help the FBI crack cases. Cooper will reprise his film role as Eddie Morra in several episodes.

Jadedness aside, Limitless might be more of a film continuation on television than just a recycled idea. Maybe it's worth a shot?

ALL PHOTOS HANDOUTS

Uncle Buck
This is absolutely the worst idea. ABC's Uncle Buck is a cheesy sounding family sitcom named after John Candy's 1989 classic comedy. The show has nothing to do with the film, aside from the fact it features an uncle named "Buck" (played by Mike Epps) that moves in with his brother and looks after his kids.

The worst part about the show is that it's being produced by the guys that made MadTV. Oh boy. Epps and the MadTV guys butchering a classic for no apparent reason. At least call it something else. Poor John Candy is rolling over in his grave.

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Idaho's Weiser River Trail

UNITED STATES

Small towns, apple trees, and pastures await cyclists

No matter how speedily things are moving in the outside world, the pace is slow and steady on central Idaho's Weiser River Trail, a converted rail bed in one of this state's most beautiful areas.

The trail takes travellers through forest, orchards, ranchland, and then, in the southern portion, through spectacular sagebrush canyons with black lava cliffs.

Visitors can cycle along the trail, starting at the upper end, about 600 vertical metres above the endpoint in Weiser. (Heading in the other direction would be an uphill journey.)

The Pacific & Idaho Northern railroad company, or P&IN, blazed the trail through the landscape around the turn of the 19th century, reaching the small town of Council in 1901, according to a recent history of the area by Dale Fisk, the editor of the local Adams County Record newspaper.

The railroad was built to take travellers between the city of Boise and the small towns of Weiser, Midvale, Council and Cambridge.

Bicycle bridges populate the Weiser River Trail in central Idaho. ANNE WALLACE ALLEN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2

Days it will take recreational cyclists to ride the entire Weiser River Trail.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It carried Gold Rush fortune-hunters up to the mountains, and brought copper ore from the mountain's mines back to the city.

Things are a little quieter on the trail these days. Union Pacific deeded the right-of-way to the non-profit group Friends of the Weiser River Trail in August 1997, and the Friends have worked hard to maintain the rail bed for runners, walkers, hunters and bikers.

The upper end of the trail starts off on an unmarked dirt road just off Highway 95 near the small town of New Meadows. It quickly enters the woods, passing over streams on exquisite trestle bridges that have been remade for bicyclists. The trail passes by the Tamarack Lumber Mill and its colossal log yard before heading away from the road.

Riding the Weiser River Trail is serene, but it isn't easy. The Friends group uses a mechanical roller to flatten the terrain, but they can't pave it; not only do they not have the money, but some of their most fervent supporters ride horses on it. So for bikers, the terrain is packed dirt, soft enough to slow progress, and is occasionally studded with rocks. Cattle gates cause frequent stops.

But the beauty and surprises of travelling so far from roads more than make up for the labour of riding the bumps. Around Fruitvale, overloaded apple trees lined the trail. A local man who was collecting apples said the trees were from Fruitvale's days as a minor orchard area.

The trail also passes unexpectedly through a tidy water-bottling operation housed in stone buildings owned by Whole Foods, the grocery store chain.

The enticing thing about the trail is it travels to places few people ever get to see, through river valleys that look almost untouched by humans, through cattle pastures where the animals and green trees appear recently washed by the rain. It also runs deep into Owyhee canyonlands, where birds of prey, elk, mule deer and bear shelter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IF YOU GO

Length:

• The trail is a 137-kilometre route that begins near New Meadows, Idaho, near Highway 95, and ends at Weiser.

Get there:

• The southern point of the trail, in Weiser, is about 120 kilometres north of Boise, Idaho's capital city.

• For information about being dropped off with bicycles at the top of the trail, contact the Colonial Motel in Weiser, at 208-549-0150 or 866-420-2143, or colonialmotel.us/.

• The Colonial Motel owners provide friendly shuttle service and great advice. Or get in touch with the volunteers who maintain the Weiser River Trail at weiserrivertrail.org/ for advice on where to stay and how to travel the trail.

Sleep:

• In Cambridge: Mundo Hot Springs and RV Park, idaho-rv.blogspot.com/, has tent sites, a hostel, and a sparkling geothermal swimming pool. Call 208-257-3849 or 208-907-2401. Dogs are welcome.

• In Council: Elkhorn Bed & Breakfast, elkhornbnb.com, is a pet-friendly (including mules and horses) environment. Call 208-741-2071.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOTLAND

Golf's birthplace will keep golfers busy

Brian Kendall
canadiangolftraveller.com

From the Open Championship in St. Andrews to a new golf festival near Edinburgh, Scotland offers more reasons than ever for a return to the birthplace of the game.

With more than 550 courses — including many of the world's iconic seaside links — Scotland has always overwhelmed golfers with choices.

But this year the birthplace of the game appears determined to outdo itself.

From the Scottish and Open Championships to an inaugural golf festival, Scotland's calendar is filled with events aimed at fuelling a golf tourism industry that generates revenues of more than $358 million annually.

First up among the headline attractions is the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open, July 9 to 12. Played at Gullane Golf Club, a classic links near Edinburgh, the tournament grows more popular and attracts a stronger field every year. In 2013, Phil Mickelson used his victory in the event as a springboard to an even more magnificent performance the following week in capturing the Open Championship at Muirfield.

The Open, golf's oldest and most prestigious tourney, returns for the 29th time to what many believe is its natural home, the Old Course in St. Andrews.

Golf's greatest players will do battle July 16 to 19 in a historic seaside town where the game has been played for more than 550 years. As recognizably Scottish as the kilt and sporran, St. Andrews is a starkly beautiful tumble of sandstone buildings blackened with age and cathedral spires that thrust like medieval pikes into the sky.

Looming at cliff-top are the picturesque ruins of St. Andrews Castle.

The University of St. Andrews, founded in 1413 and the oldest and most prestigious university in Scotland, dominates the downtown. And at the town's heart is the Old Course, a links shaped more by Mother Nature than man and a first glimpse of heaven for everyone who loves the game.

Among this year's Open highlights will be the farewell appearances of past champions Tom Watson and Sir Nick Faldo after 38 and 37 Open Championships respectively.

Rounding out the golf season is the inaugural Scotland's Golf Coast Festival, Oct. 18 to 25. Held in the picturesque and golf-rich district of East Lothian, just outside Edinburgh, the festival includes a three-day amateur tourney open to players of all handicaps, as well as an invitation to play historic nine-hole Musselburgh Links with old-style hickory clubs.

Generally recognized as the oldest golf course in the world, Musselburgh Links hosted the Open Championship six times between 1874 and 1889.

4 EUROPEAN CASTLES TRAVELLERS SHOULDN'T MISS

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

It may be not be an actual medical diagnosis, but travellers to Europe often complain of castle fatigue. The best prescription is to avoid the crowds and hype and visit hidden gems.

PETER REMUS

1 Eltz Castle

The 850-year-old Eltz Castle is one of only two castles in Germany that were never damaged by war. Sitting on a steep rock in a hidden wooded valley close to the Moselle river, the castle is adorned with 15th-century murals and original furniture. Take note of the carved rose above the doorway in the dining room; the rose of silence ensured anything said in the room would be kept in confidence.

2 Château d'Angers

Château d'Angers was founded in the ninth century and expanded to its current size in the 13th century. In the heart of Angers, France, this austere castle is surrounded by a massive moat with deer living in it and is home to the oldest and largest collection of medieval tapestries in the world. The 14th-century Apocalypse Tapestry is considered one of France's priceless treasures.

FLICKR: YOURTE CONTEMPORAINE

PETER REMUS

3 State Castle and Chateau Český Krumlov

The State Castle and Chateau Český Krumlov, three hours south of Prague in the Czech Republic, is on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage Monuments list. Erected on a rock promontory over the Vltava river, the massive complex consists of 40 buildings and palaces situated around five castle courts and a park spanning seven hectares. Take the castle's self-guided audio tour and then head into the town below for a cup of mead at the Two Marys pub and restaurant.

FLICKR: COANRI/RITA

4 Paleis Het Loo

Paleis Het Loo, in the Dutch town of Apeldoorn, is a former royal residence occupied for three centuries by the royal family of the Netherlands. The interior is full of royal artifacts, starting with the palace's first inhabitants, Willem III, stadholder-king, and Queen Mary II of England. It is fascinating as it was only recently vacated and turned into a museum. The 17th-century gardens are reminiscent of Versailles.

NOT A TOURIST |
A postcard from Kristi Eaton in Koh Rong, Cambodia

Serenity lives at beach

If it's time for a digital detox, instead of heading to a swanky resort that simply locks phones away for the duration of visitors' stays, consider heading to an undeveloped island off the southern coast of Cambodia.

Koh Rong island has lush jungle and unspoiled white-sand beaches — but no roads. It takes about an hour to get there by high-speed ferry from Cambodia's southern beach town of Sihanoukville.

Once docked, bypass the throng of backpacker-friendly hostels known for cheap dining and wild parties to celebrate full moons, and head to a secluded resort called Pura Vita. Hotel staff welcomed travellers at the dock before the group hopped into a rickety fishing boat to make the 15-minute journey to Sonaya Beach.

A secluded beach lines the undeveloped island of Koh Rong, Cambodia. KRISTI EATON VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While the term resort might suggest luxury, this one, while restorative, was pretty simple. Made up of about 20 bungalows, it was so remote that electricity was only available by generator for four hours each night. And forget about logging onto Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. Internet access was virtually non-existent in this off-the-beaten-path locale.

Instead, spend the days lazily eating breakfast at the on-site restaurant before walking the few feet to the pristine beach and crystal-clear water. Dip in and out of the water and stroll along the stretch of land before taking a late afternoon nap, or spend hours reading a book as the waves splash.

Diving and snorkeling, as well as jungle trekking, is available for visitors looking for an adrenaline rush.

A full moon party one night along the rows of hostels near the island's pier may interrupt a quiet retreat — even from kilometres away — but otherwise the resort offers longed-for tranquility. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL NOTES CRYSTAL DELIGHTS AND ECUADOR HIGHS

Sparkling reno
The world-famous Swarovski Crystal Worlds (Swarovski Kristallwelten) in Wattens, Austria, has re-opened after a $45-million expansion, just in time for its 20th anniversary, and the 120th anniversary of Swarovski itself. International architects and designers took part in creating a new park with new installations and buildings, redesigning many others. Visit Kristallwelten.Swarovski.com.

Bucket List: Ecuador
This South American country is like four places in one: You get the Pacific coast, the Andes Mountains with its active volcanoes, the Amazon rain forest packed with wildlife, and the iconic Galapagos Islands, all in one package. Hike along a crater lake, take a chocolate tour or brave the steep train ride down Devil's Nose. Visit Ecuador.Travel. DOUG WALLACE

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Connect with local producers

SHUTTERSTOCK

After another long, cold winter, a welcome sign of summer is finally here — farmers' markets are in full swing across the country, offering Canadian shoppers the chance to enjoy both fresh, locally grown products and help out the economy.

With the demand for local products on the rise in recent years, Farmers' Markets Canada (FMC) commissioned a national study in 2008 to measure the importance of these markets to both the economy and Canadian consumers.

The economic impact is clear — farmers' markets inject more than $3 billion into the Canadian economy annually, and each vendor also creates an average of one to five jobs.

Jantine Van Kregten, communications director of Ottawa Tourism, says shopping local just makes sense.

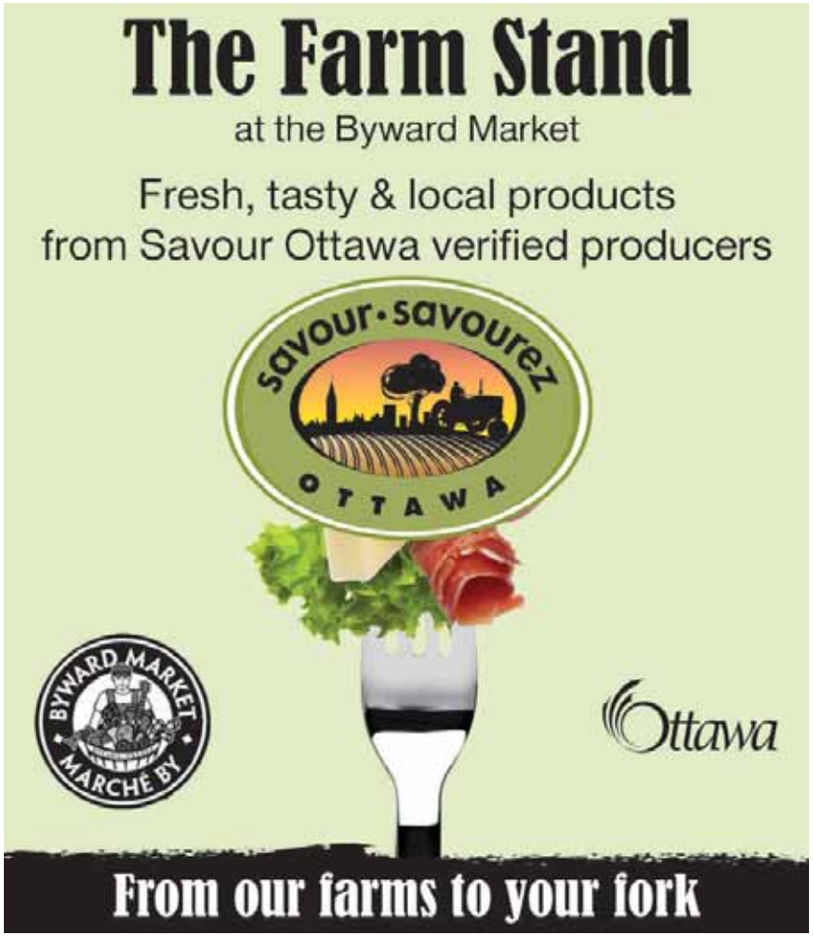
"It keeps that money circulating to the benefit of all and it helps to keep farming a viable option for young people," she says.

Economic benefits aside, there are also the immediate benefits you get to enjoy when shopping at a local farmers' market — the enhanced freshness of just-picked products, the ability to meet your neighbours and share ideas or suggestions with the people who grow and raise the food you eat.

"There can sometimes be a disconnect between consumers and knowing where their food comes from," says Stephanie Szakacs-St. Louis, the executive director of Edmonton's Old Strathcona Farmers' Market. "I think the thing that really makes farmers' markets unique is that customers get to meet the person who created the product they're about to enjoy.

"At farmers' markets, you can ask the farmer about their processes and find out what your food is really made of. Plus, the food is fresher because it travels a short distance and isn't kept in a warehouse."

– Jen Traplin



CONTRIBUTED

SAVOUR LOCAL FLAVOURS

A new addition to the ByWard Market aims to introduce customers to even more new and unique local flavours.

The Savour Ottawa Farm Stand, launched last year, is an innovative endeavour — a market stand that is jointly operated by multiple producers. The stand only features Savour Ottawa members, meaning they have all been verified as local producers and local microprocessors buying from local producers.

What people don't necessarily know is that, while some of the market vendors are on a stand for the entire summer, they can also rent on a daily basis, an important option for small or new producers who often don't have the time, staff, product or resources to be there full time. With the Savour Ottawa Farm Stand, producers get to share rental fees, have a season-long presence in the ByWard Market, a staff that operates the stand, and access to electricity.

Products currently featured on the Savour Ottawa Farm Stand include Beking eggs, Whaley's Acres pork, yogurt, ice cream and lamb from La Bergerie des sables, cranberry products like juices, dried and frozen cranberries from Upper Canada Cranberries, Buzzz Honey creams, cider by Hall's Apple Market, and more will be added as the summer rolls on.

The Savour Ottawa Farm Stand is located at the corner of ByWard Market Square and George Street and is open until mid-October.

For more information, please visit byward-market.com.

metro SPORTS

Contract talks between the Heat and Dwyane Wade have reportedly stalled

WEEKEND, May 29-31, 2015

IN BRIEF

French Open favourites stumble but survive

For Serena Williams, it was a bad right elbow that led to some shaky serving and a dropped set.

For Novak Djokovic, first it was a balky right hip that needed treatment from a trainer; later came an embarrassing mistake.

For Andy Murray, it was a time warning from the chair umpire and losing a set for the first time in six matches.

Rafael Nadal won Thursday, but some red dirt got in the machine for three of the biggest names at Roland Garros. That trio put those moments aside and reached the third round, but more significant challenges await.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thibodeau gets heave-ho

In five seasons under Tom Thibodeau, the Chicago Bulls soared to heights they had not reached since Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen were collecting championships.

They never got to the top with him and now he is out.

The Bulls fired Thibodeau on Thursday, parting ways with the strong-willed coach who took the team to the playoffs in each of his five seasons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada to vote for change

FIFA

CSA won't choose Blatter for president: Montagliani

GETTY IMAGES

Canada will not vote for beleaguered incumbent Sepp Blatter in Friday's presidential vote at the FIFA Congress.

Victor Montagliani, president of the Canadian Soccer Association, says Canada will cast its ballot for the only other candidate — Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan.

Montagliani says Canada won't support the current political leadership of FIFA.

"The organization needs a definite change, a refresh," Montagliani told The Canadian Press from Zurich. "And I think we need to govern the game in a better way.

"And this is also a comment to the FIFA executive committee."

Montagliani said the decision not to support Blatter was finalized at a Canadian Soccer Association board meeting Thursday.

The Canadian soccer boss says the U.S. Soccer Federation has come to the same conclusion and will vote the same way. UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, is also supporting Prince Ali, Asia's vice-president on the FIFA executive committee.

> **It's not just about one person. The game deserves better. Period.**
> Victor Montagliani

Montagliani says reforms in world soccer have to be done quickly and in transparent fashion.

FIFA was rocked this week by a string of indictments from the U.S. Department of Justice. CONCACAF, which covers North and Central America and the Caribbean, was front and centre in the alleged corruption.

CONCACAF moved Thursday to reorganize.

Montagliani was named to a special CONCACAF committee charged with "evaluating and sustaining" all of the confederation's business operations in the wake of FIFA's mushrooming corruption scandal.

Montagliani is joined on the committee by Justino Compean, president of the Mexican Soccer Federation and Sunil Gulati, president of the U.S. Soccer Federation.

CONCACAF's executive committee has "provisionally dismissed" president Jeffrey Webb and Eduardo Li and named senior vice-president Alfredo Hawit as CONCACAF president.

Webb, a FIFA vice-president from the Cayman Islands, and Li, head of the Costa Rican football federation, are facing charges that carry up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Julio Rocha of Nicaragua was also indicted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moncton, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver host the Women's World Cup from June 6-July 5. The Women's World Cup was on display in Vancouver for youth soccer players and community leaders on Thursday at the final stop of its 12-city tour. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

IN TRINIDAD

Former FIFA vice-president and CONCACAF president Jack Warner left a jail in Trinidad by ambulance Thursday a day after he was charged in the FIFA corruption case. Judicial officer Abraham Ali said Warner had complained of exhaustion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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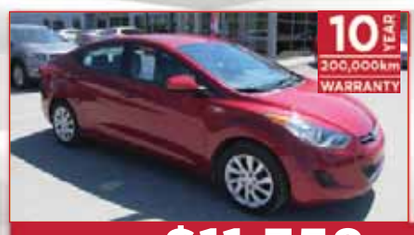

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Grey Cup MVP Bo Levi Mitchell signed a contract extension with the Stampeders during the off-season. GETTY IMAGES FILE

CFL

Stampeders begin Grey Cup defence

History has shown winning the Grey Cup is no easy task, but it's nowhere near as challenging as trying to hold on to it.

Since 1996, only the Toronto Argonauts (1996-97) and Montreal Alouettes (2009-10) have repeated as CFL champions. That's not exactly good news for John Hufnagel and the Calgary Stampeders, who won the 2014 Grey Cup with a thrilling 20-16 win over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in Vancouver.

Calgary will look to buck that trend starting Sunday when CFL training camps open. And Hufnagel says the Stampeders fully understand the difficulty of the task before them.

"I think something we have (is) a great understanding of the difficulty of the task," Hufnagel, Calgary's head coach and GM, told reporters recently. "Everyone's goal is to win the Grey Cup, our goal is to repeat.

"We just have to keep a level head, make sure we're working as hard as we can getting ready to play good football each and every week. The biggest thing is to meet your first goal, which is to get into the tournament. Once you get into the tournament, do some damage."

Calgary will open camp with many of the faces who led it to a CFL-best 15-3 record last season. Quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell, the Grey Cup MVP, returns after signing a contract extension this off-season while running back Jon Cornish, the league MVP in 2013, chases a fourth straight league rushing title.

> **Right now, on paper, I'm comfortable with the depth and competition.**
> John Hufnagel

But Calgary has holes, especially on its offensive line with the departure of centre Brett Jones and tackle Stanley Bryant. Jones, the CFL's top lineman last year, signed as a free agent with the NFL's New York Giants while Bryant joined the Winnipeg Blue Bombers this off-season.

Defensive end Shawn Lemon, who had 13 sacks last season, signed as a free agent with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

REDBLACKS PREVIEW

After just two wins in their inaugural season, there's nowhere for the Redblacks to go but up.

GM Marcel Desjardins gave veteran starter Henry Burris more weapons, adding receiver/kick-returner Chris Williams and receivers Greg Ellingson, Ernest Jackson and Canadian Brad Sinopoli in free agency while also acquiring receiver Maurice Price from Calgary.

The Redblacks finished last or near the bottom of most key offensive categories last year.

Bolts don't care for Rangers' history

NHL PLAYOFFS

New York has never lost a Game 7 at home

The legend of Madison Square Garden doesn't intimidate the Tampa Bay Lightning. Neither does the New York Rangers' recent streak of Game 7 victories there.

"It's still the same game, still the same measurements of any other rink," defenceman Victor Hedman said.

Lightning coach Jon Cooper won't pull out the measuring tape like Gene Hackman did in the movie Hoosiers to show that The World's Most Famous Arena has a 200-by-85-foot ice surface, just like every other NHL arena. He and his players are distancing themselves, however, from the Rangers' Game 7 success and hope to end that run Friday night with a trip to the Stanley Cup final at stake.

0.97

Henrik Lundqvist is 6-1 with a 0.97 goals-against average and .966 save percentage in Game 7 situations

"We haven't been a part of that history, so it doesn't affect us," Cooper said on a conference call Wednesday. "I guess you look back and it's an impressive feat to see what they've done. But they haven't done it against our group and our team, and we've got a pretty young, confident group."

Tampa Bay's confidence stems from its 3-1 record at Madison Square Garden this season, including two victories in three tries so far in the Eastern Conference final. Hedman called it a "hostile environment" and a tough building to play in but boasted that the Lightning are comfortable playing there.

So are the Rangers, especially in high-pressure situations. They've played a Game 7 four times at MSG dating back to 2012, and won 2-1 each time.

They beat the Washington Capitals in overtime last round, the Philadelphia Flyers last year and the Ottawa Senators and Capitals in 2012.

"Game 7s are so exciting to play on that ice, and the fans seem to just absolutely light that building up," New York centre Derek Stepan. "You play all year to get home-ice advantage, and that's what we're able to do this year."

All-time, the Rangers have never lost a home Game 7.

Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist stops a shot from Lightning right-winger Ryan Callahan as James Sheppard defends during Game 6 of the Eastern Conference final on Tuesday night in Tampa. PHELAN M. EBENHACK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ducks and Blackhawks to square off one last time

Two weeks of extraordinarily high-level hockey in the Western Conference final conclude at the Honda Center on Saturday night when the Anaheim Ducks and the Chicago Blackhawks play Game 7 for a trip to the Stanley Cup final.

Both teams used Thursday for travel and mental preparation for the big finish after Chicago staved off elimination with a 5-2 victory in Game 6.

"It's for sure the most exciting series I've ever been a part of personally," said Ducks defenceman Francois Beauchemin, a Stanley Cup champion with 96 games of NHL playoff experience.

THE CANADIAN PRESS AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 13 minutes

Ingredients
Meatballs
- 8 oz extra-lean ground beef
- 3 Tbsp dry bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp hoisin sauce
- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 1 egg
- 2 Tbsp minced green onion

Sauce
- 1/3 cup hoisin sauce
- 1/3 cup red currant jelly
- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 1/2 tsp minced fresh ginger
- 2 Tbsp water

Garnish
- 2 Tbsp chopped green onion
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh cilantro

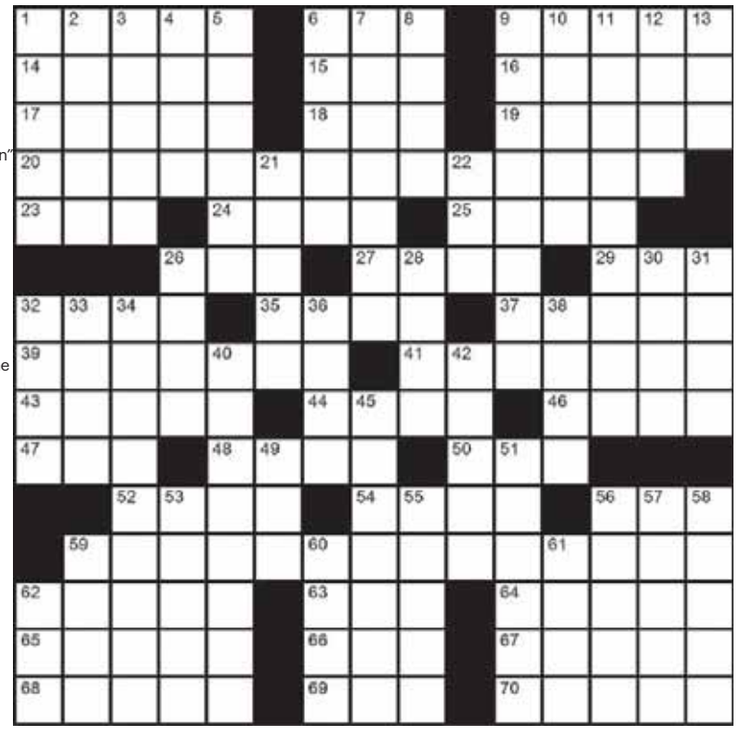
Directions
1. For the meatballs, combine the beef, bread crumbs, hoisin sauce, garlic, egg and onion. Form into 20 to 24 meatballs, about one inch in diameter.
2. Spray a large non-stick skillet with cooking oil and add the meatballs. Cook over medium-high heat for three minutes, turning until browned on all sides.
3. For the sauce, combine the hoisin sauce, jelly, garlic, ginger and water in a small bowl. Add to the meatballs and stir well. Cover and simmer on low heat for 10 minutes.
4. Serve garnished.

Nutrition per serving (recipe serves 6)
- Calories 150
- Protein 8.1 g
- Total fat 4.2 g

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Burdens
6. "Oy!"
9. Cavalry weapon
14. Go faster: 2 wds.
15. Montreal airport code
16. "As Sure as the Sun" singer Ms. Holcomb
17. Spatial
18. __ Cool (Green Day drummer)
19. A Lesson from __ (Athol Fugard play)
20. 1984 Culture Club chart-topper: 2 wds.
23. 'Insist' suffix
24. "__ So Cold" by The Rolling Stones
25. Word's history [abbr.]
26. Vitality
27. "Thanks, _ __ you one."
29. Some univ. degrees
32. Simon Cowell's entertainment company
35. __ __ amazing job (Perform well)
37. Prefix to 'saurus' (Plated-back dino)
39. Canadian jewellery store founded in 1919
41. Alberta hamlet bringing to mind Toronto's province when written out
43. "It's __ Paper Moon"
44. Money __ __ object
46. "__ Rhythm"
47. Blood-sucker, when doubled
48. Decorative tabletop piece
50. Actor Mr. Knight, et al.
52. "The Beverly Hillbillies" star, Max __ Jr.
54. Entr'__ (Theatre break)
56. Collagen target
59. Getting ready, having tea and toast, catching the bus...: 2 wds.
62. Dieter's lost amount
63. Music Dr.
64. Cake creator
65. High nest, variantly
66. Some batteries
67. Overwork
68. Rattan furniture maker
69. Driving distances [abbr.]
70. Baseball inning

DOWN
1. "My Side" Canadian rapper
2. Aired again
3. Fend off
4. Island of the Marianas
5. 1984 Tom Hanks/Daryl Hannah movie
6. Village in northwestern Alberta
7. Combo continent
8. Original matter, in Cosmology
9. Canadian dairy products brand
10. Between-buildings-spot
11. Business channel coming to Canada
12. Zippo ...mais en francais
13. poet mr. cummings'
21. Scold
22. "Thaat's grooss!"
26. Use the Xerox
28. __ empty stomach: 2 wds.
30. Currency exchange fee
31. Chimneysweep's swept stuff
32. Fleck
33. Cravings
34. Winnie-the-Pooh: Lieutenant Harry __, V.S. (Canadian veterinarian who gave the bear 'Winnipeg' to the London Zoo in WWI)
36. Medical condition suffix
38. Mai __ (Cocktails)
40. Air freshener scent
42. Fingers-crossed ticket
45. Canadian distiller, Joseph E. __ (b.1841 - d.1919)
49. Tycoon Mr. 'O'
51. Sandwich sort
53. Mr. Schwarzenegger, to fans
55. Salad green
56. Equate
57. Torpid
58. City in Australia
59. Canadian stage actress Ms. O'Connell
60. Fargo, _. __.
61. Tony Danza sitcom
62. Bench press muscle, briefly

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Although you always look so self-assured, you have doubts just like everyone else and some of them could get serious today. Your best course of action is to carry on as if you don't have a care in the world.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Focus on what comes easy and resist calls to get involved in things you know little about. You are at your best when in control, while others may say that is boring you really don't mind. Boring pays the bills.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will get some good news today. Actually, the news itself may be nothing special but it will confirm that your recent worries were groundless — as, deep down, you always knew.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Reality is overrated at times and the planets suggest your fantasies will be a lot of fun over the next few days. Try to remember that not everyone shares your tastes.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Don't complain too loudly if a friend plays a trick on you today — they are only getting back at you for the many tricks you have played on them. It's all in good fun, so don't be afraid to laugh at yourself.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
No matter how clever you think you are if you try to fool someone in a position of power today they will find out and you will be the one who suffers. Neptune's influence on your ruler Mercury is highly deceptive.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Some people you get along with naturally, while others you cannot bring yourself to like no matter what. One of the latter variety will try to earn your friendship today. You're not having it.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You can, if you make the effort, accomplish a lot today but the planets indicate you will prefer to take it easy and let things drift. There's no point pushing yourself if you don't feel like it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may find it hard to put your feelings into words today — but your body language will say it all. Loved ones can sense you need some TLC and will go out of their way to give it.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Certain habits are hard to break but if you tackle them one at a time there is no reason you shouldn't be successful. When getting rid of a bad habit it helps if you have a good one to take its place.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Opinions won't be in short supply today but the only advice you need is what your conscience tells you. Ignore what others say and do what you think is right.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Anxiety you should have conquered long ago will make its presence felt today — this time you must deal with it. Face it head-on rather than trying to avoid it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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